

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, October 24, 2013

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What's On - Page 25



Potential new base for active over-60s

A CHARITY has unveiled plans for an activity centre for elderly people at The Waterfront complex in Brierley Hill.

Age UK wants to open the centre at a retail unit and the charity is in advanced negotiations with Westfield, the owners of the outlet in Level Street.

It currently runs activities from Brierley Hill Methodist Church, Merry Hill Activity Centre and its Dudley borough headquarters in Cradley Road, Netherton.

Move

Christine Szygowski, senior manager at Dudley Age UK, said: "Nothing has been signed and sealed yet, but we are really happy with the new location and hope we can move in soon."

"The location makes it easily accessible for people and it is in a central location in the borough."

The charity offers a range of activities from Monday to Friday for 300 to 350 people aged 60 and over every week, including dancing and keep fit, coffee meetings and cycling events.

Under the plan, the charity would continue to use its base in Netherton and the Merry Hill Activity Centre.

The centre would be next to cafe Harry @ The Waterfront.

Taxi checks are planned

A CRACKDOWN on illegal taxi is being launched in the run-up to Christmas.

Both hackney carriage and private hire taxi drivers will be spot-checked as part of the operation, being launched by Dudley Council and West Midlands Police.

Officers will ensure private hire drivers are also only taking pre-booked customers and not collecting people who hail them in the street. Hackney carriages will be checked to ensure they are running their meters appropriately from the start of all journeys.

APOLOGY OVER PORN PICTURE

Report by Daniel Wainwright

A UKIP candidate has apologised after posting a pornographic image on Twitter. Dean Perks, who wants to be an MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, said he put the image on his page as a 'joke'.

It shows a naked woman in high heels leading a naked man through the streets by his private parts.

Mr Perks, who has previously said that chopping people's hands off for theft could work as a means of preventing crime, said he did not mean to cause any offence.

UKIP has distanced itself from the picture but said it was up to Mr Perks what he put on his own Twitter page.

The page can be seen by anyone with access to the internet. It was posted as part of a joke between Mr Perks and a friend, whom Mr Perks had suggested was being controlled by his fiancée.

Condemned

The picture has been condemned by the Labour party while UKIP has been in touch with Mr Perks to ask what was going on.

Mr Perks, who hopes to unseat Tory MP James Morris in 2015 and wants to get onto Dudley Council in the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton ward, said: "I've not been reprimanded. It was done as a joke. I was taking the Mickey out of a friend for being under the thumb."

"It's my own private account although I do say that I'm the candidate on my profile. Perhaps I should have sent it as a direct message instead, meaning that no-one else could see it."

"If I've caused offence to anyone I apologise. But it had been up there almost a month before anyone said anything."

Gawain Towler, spokesman for UKIP, said the party would not be taking action against Mr Perks. He said: "This is just two blokes taking the Mickey out of each other. We're not getting upset about this. It's not something I would have put on Twitter but we don't expect people to all be part of the same 'group think' dictated by party management."

But Warley Labour MP John Spellar said UKIP leader Nigel Farage should take action against Mr Perks.

MP Mr Morris said: "Although he clearly meant it as a joke between friends, it was a real error of judgment."

Drawing on experience



Artist Philip Adams and Rev Katryn Leclezio from St Peter's Church taking part with pupils in the Big Draw event at Caslon Primary School in Cradley

NEARLY 200 children are drawing inspiration from the buildings around them to paint a picture of their town.

Pupils at Caslon Primary School in Beeches View Avenue, Cradley, have had guidance from artist and former Halesowen College lecturer Philip Adams.

Mr Adams has been at the school to give

them tips about how to sketch buildings using charcoal, pastels, pencils and crayons.

The project is part of a national initiative called the Big Draw.

Their work will be displayed in an exhibition, alongside drawings produced by other local primary schools, at St Peter's Church on November 17.

Schools' U-turn on asthma to save lives

EMERGENCY asthma inhalers will be allowed in schools across the country under plans to reverse controversial rules which prevented their use.

Stourbridge MP Margot James looks set to claim victory and force the U-turn following talks with Health Minister Earl Lowe.

She had argued that regulations preventing schools from stocking an emergency inhaler were potentially putting thousands of children's lives at risk.

Concerned

Mr Howe has confirmed the Commission of Human Medicines has recommended rules are changed, allowing schools to keep an inhaler for emergency use.

The guidelines were introduced by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency.

Miss James said the recommendation for the rules to be changed was due to be signed off by the Department of Health this week. A six-week public consultation will follow with the changes, if they get the final go-ahead, expected to be brought in next spring.

Schools in Dudley borough previously kept a generic inhaler for use in an emergency, but following the policy change were no longer able to do so.

Miss James called a meeting with Dudley Council, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Asthma UK and concerned parents. The group agreed it would be in the public interest to be emergency asthma care provisions in schools.

Miss James said: "I am delighted health ministers have acted quickly. Parents were very concerned when schools were suddenly instructed not to permit the use of a general asthma inhaler. This ruling was in accordance with the letter of the law but in reality children with asthma were safer when schools were able to use these general inhalers."

"This will help to safeguard children with asthma and prevent any unnecessary hospital admissions, or even deaths."

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Charity is building new animal hospital

A £2 MILLION animal hospital is to be built in Sandwell under new plans which have been unveiled.

The charity PDSA wants to build the centre on a patch of land next to the Wolverhampton Road in Oldbury to replace its current base in the town on Hagley Road West.

Bosses at the organisation say they have been working on the plans for two years after seeing an increase in demand for its services.

The new site will be known as the People's Dis-

pensary for Sick Animals Centre for North-West Birmingham and Sandwell.

The hospital currently employs full and part-time veterinary and non-veterinary staff and the new centre is expected to secure more than 30 jobs for the borough.

Sandwell Council cabinet members will be asked to decide whether or not to sell off the land to the organisation so the new centre can be built.

A report on the scheme has been prepared for the council's asset management and land dis-

posal cabinet committee. Chairman, Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "The site has been identified as an ideal location for the required People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Centre."

The report also recognises the importance of the centre to provide an animal welfare service for the borough and recommends that council chiefs approve the release of the land to the charity. A failure to agree a deal on the land could see the charity look outside the borough for an alternative.

Council plan a wave of new cuts worth £32m

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has announced £32 million worth of cuts, which will see jobs axed and car park charges rise.

Bosses will need to make the extra cuts on top of an initially-predicted £26m amount set earlier this year following a huge drop in Government funding.

Rapist jailed for 12 years after young girl's ordeal



Jail - Christopher Reynolds
A 28-YEAR-OLD man from Rowley Regis has been jailed for 12 years for the rape of a young girl - putting her through a 'terrible ordeal' and the trauma of giving evidence at his trial.

Police said the crime - which happened when the girl was aged 12 - would affect her for life.

Sentenced

Christopher Reynolds, of Throne Crescent, Rowley Regis, denied one charge of rape and two of sexual activity with the child. But he was found guilty after a trial and was sentenced at Worcester Crown Court.

Reynolds previously lived in the Kidderminster area, where the offences were committed.

Detective Constable Claire Marsden, of West Mercia Police, said: "Reynolds put this young girl through a terrible ordeal."

The announcement from Dudley yesterday (Wednesday) brings the total savings revealed by Black Country authorities in less than a week to more than £140m.

Dudley Council had already planned for up to 334 job losses by 2017, as well as major cuts to its children's services, museums and highways expenditure - but leader Councillor David Sparks warned more savings must be found.

Tax

He said officers will be looking 'at everything' in a bid to fill the massive shortfall, which he says has been caused by the slump in Government funding. Funding is predicted to fall from £74m next year to £40m in three years.

And he said council tax - which has remained frozen for the past three years - will be reviewed as part of the process, adding he could not rule out a rise.

Car park charges are also set to rise over the next three years to help generate much-needed income. They could go up by 10 per cent, following on from a 20 per cent rise in May this year.

Councillor Sparks said: "Services will need to be cut back further and clearly there will need to be a reduction in the workforce."

"We will do everything we can to avoid compulsory redundancies, but we cannot guarantee everyone's jobs when we have such a funding gap proposed by this Government. The whole system of funding local government will need to be reviewed. It is in crisis."

Good clean way to a long life



Edna West is celebrating turning 100, with (from left) young musician great grandson Alec Lowe, 11, granddaughter Alison Lowe, 43, grandson Richard West, 40, son Mike West, 71 and daughter-in-law Anne West, 71

A LIFELONG member of the Salvation Army has celebrated her 100th birthday. Edna West put her long and happy years down to "living a good clean life".

The grandmother of two and great-grandmother of one, who now lives at Allerton Court Residential Home in Stone Cross, West Bromwich, was born and grew up in Oldbury before living in the Rowley Regis area.

She was born on Freeth Street, the only girl and survivor of seven siblings. She was brought up by her grandmother as her parents also died when she was very young.

Mrs West, who worked at the former Pazo cardboard manufacturing plant, lived with her husband Leslie in Rowley Regis. He died in 1991, aged 79.

She moved to residential home two years ago.

She has been a long-time member of the Salvation Army Oldbury Corps, based on Merton Road, and over the weekend attended thanksgiving service before enjoying afternoon tea with around 80 people.

She also marked her birthday with a small gathering of family and residential home residents which featured some refreshments and music from the 1940s, as well as a cornet performance by her great-grandson Alec Lowe.

When asked what her key to a long life was, she said: "Trusting in the Lord, and living a good clean life."

"I always worked hard and always had more than one job. When I was very young I had three or four jobs at the time, so I was always very busy."

Her family also said she was a very good pastry and cake maker.

Man died from shock of severe blood loss

A FITNESS instructor who cut his own wrist died from shock caused by severe blood loss. William Charles Dufficy was found at his home in Broomfield Street North, Halesowen, on April 3 after police forced entry.

Dudley Coroner's Court heard Mr Dufficy, 33, had called the ambulance service saying he was cutting himself. He was found dead in his bedroom by officers.

Coroner Mr Robin Balmain was told Mr Dufficy had suffered from depression and anxiety. He had previously self-harmed but had always sought treatment.

Mr Balmain gave a narrative conclusion saying there was no clear indication Mr Dufficy, who had drink and medication in his system, had intended to kill himself. "He may not have been thinking straight," he said.

PCSO arrest is part of leak probe

A PCSO and three other people have been arrested by an anti-corruption unit as part of an investigation into leaked information.

The 42-year-old police community support officer was arrested in Sandwell on suspicion of misconduct in a public office by the West Midlands Police Counter Corruption Unit.

The investigation was launched after information was received about a leak of police information.

Two men, aged 57 and 58, were also arrested in Blackheath and a 51-year-old woman arrested in Tipton.

They were detained on suspicion of procuring misconduct in a public office. All four have been bailed while the PCSO is suspended.

Church coffee helps charity

CRADLEY Heath Baptist Church raised £230 for Macmillan Cancer Support at a coffee morning earlier this month. The cake stall included two unusual cakes decorated with images of the grade II listed church building.

Mary Stephens Hospice benefited from another coffee morning at the church, which raised £300.

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Suspended prison term for cheat in £32k fraud

A WOMAN who falsely claimed £32,700 in benefits over a five-year period has been spared immediate jail.

Nusrat Bibi, of Mace Street, Cradley Heath, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court after a jury found her guilty of four counts of benefit fraud.

The 55-year-old falsely claimed £32,700 in income support, employment support and job seekers' allowance without declaring a share in a property which she held.

Mr Andrew Wallace, prosecuting, said: "It seems the defendant moved across from her house and into a house belonging to one of her children. She then made claims for benefits to which she was not entitled. Over a five-year period Mrs Bibi claimed £32,700."

Mr Anthony Potter, defending Bibi, described his client as 'a lady of previous good character'.

She was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment for each offence, to run concurrently, suspended for two years. Sentencing her, Judge John Warner said: "You have been convicted by the jury of obtaining benefits to which you were not entitled. You claimed income support, employment support and job seekers' allowance over a period of five years, totalling more than £32,000. I'm quite satisfied that this was deliberate fraud from the outset."

Bibi was found guilty by jury on September 13 at Wolverhampton Crown Court of two counts of making false statements with a view to obtain benefits and two counts of dishonestly failing to notify a change in circumstances.

Five youths in ban from KFC

FIVE youths have been banned from in and around a restaurant by police after it became a magnet for young people causing a nuisance.

Police say the car park at KFC in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, was being used like a skate park at night and groups of youths had been intimidating customers.

Five have been given banning orders and police have told their parents or guardians. Patrols will continue to monitor the situation. Sergeant Cheryl Reed said: "The KFC seems to act as a meeting place for the youths to congregate due to it being well lit as well as the car park, which is being used as a skate park."

Pub being demolished and replaced by 12 homes



Doomed - The Prince of Wales pub

A FORMER popular pub which once served celebrities is being demolished to make way for a housing development.

Twelve detached homes will be built on the site of the Prince of Wales in Stourbridge Road, Hagley. The proposals, which have been supported by the parish council, were given the go-ahead by Bromsgrove District Council.

Planning officers had recommended the scheme, proposed by Footstep Homes (Hagley) Ltd, was approved subject to conditions.

A report said: "This application proposes to demolish the public house and erect twelve

detached houses within the site of the public house, its car park and gardens and the rear gardens of properties on the Stourbridge Road. The housing design is for two and two and a half storey but with detailing of a Victorian vernacular not unlike the original public house and using red and multi-brick."

The application was given delegated approval subject to a landscaping scheme.

The pub was originally purchased by the Highways Agency in 1993, along with a row of nearby houses, to pave the way for the proposed six-lane £115 million Kidderminster,

Blakedown and Hagley bypass, which was scrapped three years later.

Landlord Peter Smith had run the pub for well over a decade and regularly welcomed showbiz pals including Larry Grayson and Danny La Rue.

Coronation Street star Johnny Briggs - Mike Baldwin in the soap - used to pop in when he lived in Stourbridge and cricketer Botham enjoyed a few pints there.

It was run by the Etheridge family until its closure in 2007, after an unsuccessful legal battle to keep it open.

Jail for man in needle stab threat to guard

Accolade for Good Samaritan Mary



Kind-hearted Mary Woolvin, who helped after a road accident, receives her award from Chief Constable Chris Sims and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Yvonne Mosquito

A ROWLEY Regis woman who opened her home to strangers after a car crash was honoured with a Good Citizen Award.

Officers were called to the scene of a large blaze after a collision between three vehicles on Thorne Road at

around 4.30pm on February 2. They found a 31-year-old mother and her three children, aged nine, six and one, at the roadside.

Mary Woolvin, 61, helped the frightened and upset family by inviting them into her home.

Good Samaritans who rushed to the aid of others were recognised in Birmingham as 64 people collected accolades at the Police and Public Bravery Awards, held at the Tally Ho training centre in Edgbaston.

A CAREER criminal breached his Asbo when he threatened to stab a security guard with a needle, a court heard.

Frankie O'Donnell, who earlier this year was banned from the entire borough of Sandwell for five years, was back in court after admitting stealing 40 packs of chewing gum from Poundland.

The judge put him behind bars for a year.

The 27-year-old - who has more than 40 previous convictions - had an accomplice during the theft on September 16, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

He then challenged a security guard who chased after the pair into Dudley town centre.

Scuffle

During a struggle O'Donnell told the guard that if he didn't let him go he would stab him with a needle.

The pair then ran off and O'Donnell was arrested at his home the next day.

Miss Joanne Barker, prosecuting, told the court: "There were two men, one selected gum and the other positioned himself to try and obscure the in-store security camera."

The guard had followed them and the trio became involved in a scuffle.

Miss Barker added: "The defendant told the security guard to 'let me go or I'm going to stab you with a needle'."

O'Donnell pleaded guilty to breaching the part of his anti-social behaviour order which prohibited him from using or threatening to use violence, as well as theft and a public order offence.

He had 44 previous convictions relating to 27 offences.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said O'Donnell's Sandwell-based exclusion



Jailed after Asbo breach - Frankie O'Donnell had 44 previous convictions

zone was too wide and that he had been restricted from seeing his immediate family.

O'Donnell, of Reservoir Road in Rowley Regis, was sentenced to 12 months in prison.

Judge Robin Onions told him: "In my assessment you're a very young immature 27-year-old."

"You behaved in a quite disgraceful way."

"It's about as bad a record as I've come across. You've got to start changing your behaviour."

The judge added: "You have a history of disobedience of court orders - until you mend your ways you will be sentenced to custody."

NEWS in brief

Accountants in Waterfront move

BLACK Country accountancy firm Griffiths & Pegg has moved from Reddall Hill Road in Cradley Heath, where it was founded 65 years ago, to the Waterfront at Merry Hill.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly was on hand to welcome partners Adrian Grainger and Rachel Clarke and their staff.

Mr Kelly said: "It is great to see more and more professional services firms and leading businesses coming to the Waterfront."

Route is closed by work on trees

PART of a busy route through Halesowen has shut for a week while work to remove overhanging trees takes place.

The westbound carriageway of the A456 Manor Way, between Grange roundabout and Hayley Green roundabout, is closed until Sunday to allow contractors to work during daylight hours to remove the dangerous trees.

Traffic will be diverted via Grange Road, Queensway and Hagley.

Top author to meet fans at the library

AUTHOR Miranda Dickinson will be in Blackheath later this month to talk about her latest book, Take A Look At Me No.

An Evening with Miranda Dickinson will be held at Blackheath Library on October 30 at 7pm. Her bestsellers include Fairytale In New York, When I Fall In Love and It Started With A Kiss. Tickets are £3 and £1.50 concessions. Book by calling 0121 559 1884.

Brass back by popular demand

STOURPORT Brass Band will be holding a concert at Halesowen Parish Church on Saturday at 7.30pm. They are back by popular demand to perform old favourites and contemporary classics.

Tickets are £8, (under 16s £4) available from the Traidcraft shop in the church, parish office on 0121 550 1158 or on the door on the night.

Len's glass nose

A GLASS blower has given a unique gift to Lenny Henry after he was awarded Freedom of the Dudley Borough. Charlotte Hughes-Martin, of the Red House Glass Cone, made a bowling-ball sized red glass nose for the comedian.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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AUNTIE Beeb informed us in her most deferential tones that Prince William, in his new job of dispensing honours, will be required "to stand for an hour at a time." Phew.

□ □ □

SCIENTISTS studying bonobo apes in Africa have discovered they are capable of empathy, reaching out to comfort and embrace bonobos in distress. Bonobos – similar to humans, but Godlier.

□ □ □

THE scariest part of the politicians' plan to regulate the Press is the draconian penalty for those newspapers which decide not to sign up to the regulating body. Any refusenik publication which was later sued for libel would have to pay all the costs, possibly running into millions – even if it won the case. So the courts, in effect, would be employed to drive opt-out newspapers into bankruptcy. This is such a monstrous abuse of the judicial system, such a gross denial of natural justice, such an affront to our freedoms of conscience and expression that it could simply never happen in this sceptre'd isle. Agreed? Think again. The latest edition of Private Eye reports that the law is already drafted and ready to go.

□ □ □

THE more food banks that are set up, the more people become "dependent" on them. One charity reports this week that the number using its food banks has tripled in a single year, which reveals "the scandal of food poverty." Does it? Or does it simply prove that if you give anything away for nothing, people will queue up for it?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Decorated D-Day hero Colonel 'Jock' Bannister dies, aged 93

A DECORATED war hero who led soldiers during the Normandy landings of World War Two has died suddenly.

Colonel John Wilson Bannister, who was later a solicitor in Stourbridge, died suddenly at his home in Farmcote, Claverley, near Wolverhampton, on October 11, aged 93.

Colonel Bannister, known as Jock, was born in Bromsgrove and educated at Wolverley School near Kidderminster.

Following in his father's footsteps, he started training to become a solicitor – joining Westwood and Morris and Co, Birmingham, as an articled clerk. But after only two years war broke out and Jock enlisted as a guardsman in the Grenadier Guards.

He was selected to go to the officer's cadet training unit at Sandhurst in 1941. And on February 22, 1941, he received an emergency commission into the Worcestershire regiment as a Second Lieutenant.

Platoon

He was then posted to the 11th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment as a platoon commander. On January 1, 1943, the 11th Battalion was reformed into the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, where Jock took over command of the mortar platoon.

He landed with the first battalion in Normandy in June 1944 and continued to command the mortar platoon with the rank of captain. Jock was involved in all the battalion's operations throughout the war.

At the end of the war he was awarded a Commander in Chief Certificate, signed by Field Marshal Montgomery, for his outstanding bravery and devotion to duty.

In May 1945, the European war at an end, Jock transferred to the 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles and served with them in Palestine as a company commander.



Colonel John Wilson Bannister, 'Jock', has died at the age of 93

The following year he returned to the UK. Two years later, after qualifying as a solicitor, he joined his father's firm WW Bannister and Son at Stourbridge. But he remained in the army reserve of officers in the Territorial Army. And in the 1950s, during the Suez Crisis, he was recalled for service, joining the 7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment as a company commander with the rank of major.

In 1961 Jock was made second in command and three years later was pro-

moted to Lieutenant Colonel and given command of the 7th Battalion. The same year he was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration, TD, and commanded the 7th Battalion until it was disbanded in 1967.

He continued his association with the Worcestershire regiment and became chairman of the 1st Battalion Regiment North West Europe 1944-45 Association.

In 1949 Jock married Dorothy Allanby, known as Dodo. As a young man he was a



Col Bannister was involved in action in the Normandy landings

good sportsman who boxed for his battalion and played cricket and rugby. He also had a keen interest in shooting and fishing.

Colonel Bannister is survived by his daughter Gill Williamson, son Richard, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He will be cremated in Stourbridge Crematorium tomorrow (Friday) at 2.10pm.

A service of thanksgiving will be held in All Saints Church, Claverley, on November 19, from 11.30am.

"The curriculum is outstanding"
"Students behaviour is outstanding"



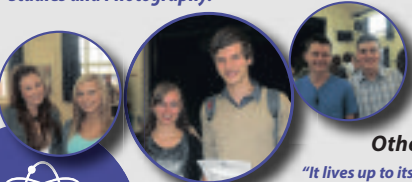
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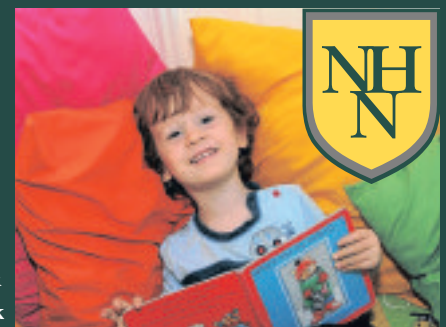
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Twilight trek



In the pink – Sarah Vickers and Hazel Jaynes joined the twilight racers in aid of Cancer Research at Himley Hall

THEY donned everything from bunny ears to bright pink tutus and some even took along a pet dog.

But hundreds of women who turned out for a charity run all had one thing in common – raising money for a good cause.

The inaugural Race for Life Twilight event saw the ladies covering 5k once darkness had fallen in the

grounds of Himley Hall. It is the first time it has been held and was organised for Cancer Research.

A minute's silence was held in memory of those who have died from cancer before the 558 women set off.

Officials said they expected the event to bring in around £55,000 for the charity.

Setting a benchmark for care with £3.5m scheme

THE OWNERS of a nursing home are hoping to set a new benchmark for care in Sandwell after taking on a £3.5 million investment project.

Wolverhampton GP Dr Narinder Narhlya and his lawyer wife, Sandeep, purchased Poplars Nursing Home in South Road, Smethwick, from Halesowen-based Carlton Care Group Ltd in May this year.

As part of the deal they also bought the neighbouring property – the former Ex-Servicemen's Club, complete with 12-table billiard room, theatre, bowling green and dance hall.

Directors of Carlton, Tony Billingham and Carole Jenkins, had purchased the local landmark for their own care business expansion more than two years ago, but had shelved the project and the building had become a target for metal thieves and vandals.

The property and its extensive grounds are now central to development plans at Poplars, taking nursing bed numbers from 37 to 60, and in addition a six-bed dedicated

Reputation

The project will create 35 new jobs for the area.

A practitioner for 17 years and a partner in a multi-centred primary care practice, Dr Narhlya, said: "We had been looking to expand our portfolio and came to see the Poplars. It had a reputation second to none for its high level of nursing care and it was quickly apparent during that visit it had something very special to offer."

"The Care Quality Commission inspection reports were consecutively outstanding and the staff delivered care well."



Poplars directors Dr Narinder Narhlya and his lawyer wife, Sandeep, check plans

"We were very interested, but a chance comment that the previous owners were trying to sell the former Ex-Servicemen's Club building next door to a wedding catering company made the proposition a mouth-watering opportunity."

He added: "The distinctive building is well known locally and some of the staff at Poplars can recall going to functions there in its heyday. Interest in the club diminished and it was closed three years ago."

"Although dilapidated, the extensive footprint of the building and large grounds presented us an opportunity to 'future-proof' care development for our family business and replicate the successful, homely nursing model already established."

Work began as soon as contracts were exchanged and currently the building has been gutted.



The former ex-servicemen's club building in South Road, which is part of the scheme by the Halesowen-based Carlton Care Group Ltd

"Most of the ground floor internal walls have been removed so we can deliver a bespoke, ground-level nursing service. Large, en-suite rooms with the latest equipment and wide corridors will enable the very best of clinical environments to help set a new benchmark of caring for the area."

"We recognise the changes in modern health care and intend to deliver them."

"Every part of the old building will be renovated, with the first floor being used for offices and training."

Extensions are being added which will connect the existing Poplars to the new-build where rooms will have patio access to a courtyard and a landscaped garden area. A large car park will also be provided for staff and visitors.

"It has been quite sad to see so many of the internal features of the old club dismantled – three large bars, the fixed seating, staging and not least, the old bowling green."

"But the extended Poplars, I'm sure, will more than compensate for these losses with new job opportunities for the area and home that will deliver the highest levels of dignified care to the most frail and vulnerable of people, plus those with acquired brain injuries," said Dr Narhlya.

Poplars manager Gill Williams, who has led the team at the home for 11 years, said: "It's the second time in my career I have been part of project to develop care literally from the ground up."

"Our new owners are a family business but with the vision of a corporate enterprise. What we are doing here will undoubtedly further upgrade the distinguished levels of nursing we already enjoy."

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

THE cheapest unit of energy is the one you don't use. So says nPower chief executive Paul Massara, who says we should respond to his company's extortionate price rises by using less energy.

It's an interesting strategy. Could you imagine the chief executive of Tesco telling us to stop moaning about the 10 per cent increase in the price of potatoes, and instead just don't buy so many?

It would be lovely if the people of Britain took him at his word, and imposed their own three-day week just to hit him in the balance sheet. But it wouldn't work. He would then use the drop in revenues as an excuse to impose another round of price hikes.

THE story about young William Ghassemi, the Staffordshire schoolboy, who dressed up as Hitler after being told to come as a character from the Second World War, tells us a great deal about a small but vocal section of the modern education system.

How can you tell kids to dress up as characters from the Second World War, and then be surprised when one turns up as the bloke who started it? But amid all the sound and fury coming from both sides of the debate, somebody seems to have overlooked the most fundamental question of all: what is it with schools today and dressing up?

It seems no primary school history lesson these days is complete without a raid on the dressing-up box. Lessons about the English Civil War? Knee-high boots, and plumes of feathers, naturally. The Tudors? Big belts and floppy hats, of course.

Apparently, they call it 'empathy', so I suppose it is probably just as well that they draw the line at empathising with one of the biggest mass murderers of the modern times.

But how does dressing up teach anyone anything about history? Imagine the scene, 30 years from now, when today's youngsters try to explain the Second World War to their own children.

"Daddy, who were the Nazis?"
"Son, they were the bad guys. They wore Hugo Boss."

SO Birmingham City Council is planning to introduce a 20mph speed limit to 90 per cent of the city. Good to see that this forward-thinking local authority wants to make to make the city an attractive place to do business, by making it easy for visitors to get around quickly.

No doubt, as we speak, there are elected members and officials in Birmingham's council offices, salivating at all the exciting new things they can do with red asphalt, chicanees and yellow paint.

They probably needn't bother, though. As anybody who has driven through Birmingham at busy times will no doubt testify: 20mph? Fat chance.



Colin Davies at the house in Lower Gornal



Colin's mother Edith Davies



Colin in the garden of the house in Stickley Lane

Colin fights to stay in the only home he's ever known

Former maintenance worker Colin Davies is battling to stay in the home where he was born more than 50 years ago, Lee Watton reports

COLIN Davies has been told by Dudley Council he can no longer stay at his life-long home in Stickley Lane, Gornal, following the death of his mother, Edith, earlier this year.

Bosses from the authority say Mr Davies' mother held the tenancy on the property and because of her death this had now ended.

And officials said it would 'not be appropriate' to allow a single occupier to live in a three-bedroom family house.

The 56-year-old, who was born in the living room of the house, is now campaigning to stay backed by his family, neighbours and representatives from UKIP.

Affected

Mr Davies, who once worked for the council's parks and gardens department, said the worry of losing his home had affected his health.

"I was actually born in the house and have lived there all my life.

"Leaving it would mean leaving behind the community I have grown up in and all of the memories.

"At the moment I can't eat or sleep due to the worry of it. My family are doing all they can but when you are on your own it keeps coming back."

Mr Davies, who is suffering from depression, has to leave the house by November 4.

He was full-time carer for his mother for 15 years.

She died of a heart attack earlier this



Colin Davies in the living room of his family home in Stickley Lane, Lower Gornal, where he was born and which he is trying to keep

year at the age of 82. More than 20 family members and supporters gathered on the steps of Dudley Council House recently for a protest urging the authority to change its decision.

Among the protesters were Mr Davies' brothers Brian and Terry, his sister Elaine Morris and niece Marie White and nephew Mark Davies.

Hundreds of signatures were gathered from people eager to lend their support by signing a petition to keep Mr Davies in his home.

The document was due to be

Chairman of the Dudley group Bill Etheridge said: "The number of people who have signed the petition shows the strength of feeling over this.

"We are aiming to have around 1,000 signatures by the time we hand the petition in."

Cabinet member for housing on Dudley Council, Councillor Steve Waltho said: Mr Davies has not been served an eviction notice but received notification his deceased mother's tenancy has ended.

"The council must always ensure it serves the interests of the whole community and it would not be appropriate use of a council home to allow a single occupier to live in a three bedroom family house."

Suitable

He said the council would work to find appropriate and suitable accommodation to meet his needs.

Mr Davies said his biggest concern was that he would be left with no choice but to move outside the village which has been his home for his entire life.

"There has been talk about being offered something in Brierley Hill but it is an area where I do not know anyone," he said.

"This entire situation has been very emotional and it is having an impact on my health."

Mr Davies said he had been told by the authority has said the house had to be occupied by more than one person.

"However, the house is deceptive as it is not really as big as it may appear from the outside.

"I am hoping the council will change its mind about this and let me stay," he added.

"I have always tried to be a good neighbour to people and a model resident."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

HOLIDAY giant Butlin's was to close two of its most famous sites, it was announced. The huge flagship holiday park at Filey, Yorkshire, which had room for 11,000 visitors, and its site at Clacton, Essex would close with immediate effect, said chairman Bobby Butlin. The move followed years of falling bookings.

A WAGES snatch was thwarted by a quick-thinking team of dustmen and a motorcyclist, a court heard. The binmen hurled missiles at the robbers while the biker pursued the getaway car at high speed to record its registration number, following the robbery at Econa Castings in Fox's Lane, Wolverhampton.

WOLVES were adamant that they would go ahead with their controversial Sunday afternoon clash with Aston Villa, despite threats of prosecution over a breach of Sunday trading laws.

1993...

BUS drivers were threatening an all-out strike in a row over compensation about having to move to a garage just over a mile away. Union leaders said the row at Wolverhampton bus garage could cripple services in the area. The threat came after West Midlands Travel refused to pay compensation to workers moved from the Cleveland Road depot to Park Lane, Fallings Park.

COLOURFUL former judge James Pickles blamed exhaustion for his bizarre appearance on breakfast television, where he became involved in a heated discussion with presenters Mike Morris and Anne Davies, and was eventually sent home in a taxi. During his appearance on GMTV, Judge Pickles said he had tried to kiss Miss Davies, said the station could not afford competent staff.

2003...

ILLUSIONIST David Blaine emerged from his glass box suspended on the banks of the River Thames after 44 days apparently living on water. He was put on a stretcher before being taken to a waiting ambulance, where he was taken to a private hospital for treatment. Speculation was rife about how he had managed a seemingly impossible stunt. Doctors said if he ate solid food so soon after emerging from the box, it could be potentially fatal.

A TEENAGE tearaway who led a gang that terrorised residents on a Cannock estate complained he couldn't make ends meet, despite being put up rent free at Rugeley's Travelodge since being freed from custody.

PATIENTS and staff at Wolverhampton's New Cross hospital were left without heating and hot water after an underground steam valve blew.

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Thanks to army of cadets

I WOULD like to say a big thank you to the Army Cadets, Dudley Detachment.

Approximately 20 of the cadets turned out on a wet, dismal Saturday, on October 12, to take part in a litter pick challenge versus Friends of Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve.

The teams set off in different directions and returned some two hours later, having collected in excess of 40 bags

of litter, large and small. It has to be said that there's much less litter to be found on the reserve these days, thanks to the ongoing hard work of the on site wardens.

They are assisted by Friends of Wren's Nest monthly litter pick, and it's no wonder that the Reserve was recently awarded the Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag award.

Thanks again to the

cadets. We are now hoping to make this clean up an annual event.

In the meantime, we'd encourage anyone who's never visited - or hasn't been for many years - to come to this site of world geological importance that's right on our doorstep.

E BOUCKLEY
Friends of Wren's Nest
National Nature
Reserve

LETTERS

Madness is taking the UK

IS this country going mad? After extensive research, it was found that badgers spread bovine flu to cattle, and whether you like it or not, it was decided that a cull of badgers would be the best solution.

Now it has been announced that 500 badgers would be injected. To cure them of flu?

Excuse me, but if an injection has been developed to inject wild animals, why hasn't one been produced to inject cattle?

Cattle provide food and milk for human beings. So, the answer to my first question, must be...yes.

PETER COLE
Chelford Crescent
Kingswinford

Annoyed at rise in perks

I WAS really annoyed to read in the press that Dudley councillors were to receive an increase to their expenses.

It amazes me that this comes at a time when the council keeps reminding everybody about financial cut backs and has no money available for essential services, including the retention of New Bradley Hall (NBH) residential care home for the elderly Kingswinford.

I am a member of a group of dedicated people who over the last two years have been trying to save NBH when Dudley Council were trying to close this wonderful Dudley Council care home.

Dudley Council now have stated that NBH is to be either sold or given away to a 'not for profit' organisation because the council cannot finance the future running of the home.

Can Dudley Council please put the lives of the most vulnerable elderly people in Dudley before a pay increase for themselves.

P SCOTT
Action Group NBH
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Update on Albania

ALBANIA has received an update as to how its EU entry application is progressing.

Albanians are happy people (in general) but suffer from a great many beggars (who they say are 'Roma') these very sad people like to beg on the streets with sleeping children on their laps (many alleged to be drugged).

I have nothing against Albanians but wonder where the UK is going and how long it will take before the UK has no funds for its own population.

I have visited Tirana (with my own funds) and listened to right wing talking about 'Top Down' wealth dripping through to the poor. I wonder how over rich people in these poor countries, who pay little or no tax, actually think they help their beggars by buying Merces and BMWs, which are made elsewhere.

No doubt those super rich people will get the Country into the EU, so their beggars can drip down into another country where social security exists and the rich do pay tax. The rich, who fail to pay tax, never actually say how many hundred years the process of dripping down takes and no doubt Robin Hood would have his view.

Last week I looked into a Tirana shop window where a gold fountain pen was priced at 5,500 Euros, this within 10 yards of a woman with a 'drugged-up' child draped over her lap. Makes you think.

MIKE NATRASS MEP

Government is hard work

HOW on earth can this government use the slogan 'for hard working people'?

This was their overriding theme at their conference; nothing is further from the truth.

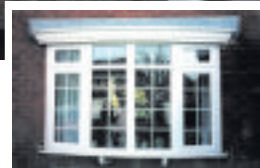
They seem to find money so easily to send to other countries and to provide expensive weapons to places that do not concern us.

Yet, when our own 'hard-working people', for example NHS staff, fire-fighters and others ask for help they do exactly the opposite to their slogan, they turn their backs on them.

May I suggest that if our politicians worked as hard as our public sector workers this country would be in a better state than it is in now.

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CLUB NEWS

Town Crier pays visit to meeting

K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

CHAIRMAN Sheila Evans welcomed members, visitors and speaker Peter Taunton. She reminded members the Christmas party will be on December 12 and tickets will be on sale to members at the November meeting.

Sheila read next year's programme which is varied and interesting including a choir and ukulele players. The secretary and treasurer read their reports which were approved and signed.

The committee was thanked for preparing the Harvest Supper in September. Money collected from the sale will go to the speakers who donate their fees to charity.

Speaker Mr Taunton gave a very enlightening and infectious talk about his role as Town Crier for Stafford and Newport in Shropshire.

Today it is a promotional role. He has won many awards including sexiest town crier at a competition in Australia and was mistaken for Sean Connery in Llandudno.

His wife often accompanies him on his many trips. One prize they won was the most beautifully dressed couple. Ann Cooper gave the vote of thanks. Brenda Moore and Shirley Marshall won the raffle.

The next meeting will be on November 7 at 7.45pm at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford. New members are welcome.

Money handed over to the air ambulance



Geoff Woodford receives the cheque from flower club chairman Lynn Ridout

EACH year Halesowen Flower Club raises money for charity and raised £1,575 for the Air Ambulance.

A cheque for this amount was gratefully received by Mr Geoff Woodford, representing the Air Ambulance, from flower club chairman Mrs Lynne Ridout at the club's AGM.

As it costs £2,500 every time the ambulance is called out, Mr Woodford said it would be put to good use as the ambulance gives invaluable help in times of emergency.

HALESOWEN FLOWER CLUB

The next meeting of the club is on Thursday, November 14 at 7.30pm in the Shenstone Theatre library buildings.

Demonstrator for the evening is Margaret Rumens and promises a taste of Christmas, as the title of her demonstration is "I'm Dreaming..."

Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £4.50.

Back to beginning of time

WORDSLEY History Society will be hosting a talk entitled 'Beginning of Time' by Andrew Lound.

The Hubble Space Telescope is giving humankind a view of the universe never even imagined and the club is looking ever further back

WORDSLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

in time. The talk, which will be illustrated by some of the most beautiful natural images one will ever see, takes place in the Community Centre, Wordsley Green

at 7.30pm on Thursday, November 14.

New members always welcome, also visitors at a cost of £2 including light refreshments.

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NEWS

Shopping centre raided in night by sneak thief

Firms help church



Lay minister Karen Chaplin with volunteers John Chatwin and Jess Law-Webber at St Peter's Church in Cradley

VOLUNTEERS have spruced up the surroundings of a landmark church and created a memorial garden for worshippers.

A team of 30 people descended on St Peter's Church, in Cradley, armed with gardening gloves, wheelbarrows and spades. It was co-ordinated by Business in the Community which gets workers from firms involved in good causes. The group, including workers from Tata Steel and food company Mondelez International, spent the day creating pathways and began to plant a memorial garden.

It will be part of a wider scheme to brighten up the church grounds off Colley Lane with plants. An appeal has been launched for donations.

The church grounds had become overgrown and vicar the Reverend Katryn Leclézio said she was delighted with the clean up.

"This is an opportunity for the people of the area to invest in a green space which is for the community," she said.

"It would be lovely if people could bring things from their own gardens."

A MAN who sneaked into a shopping centre when it was closed before stealing a haul of jewellery and cash has avoided an immediate jail term.

Mark Edge broke into Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre twice in eight days to steal goods to feed a drug habit.

He crawled under sheeting covering the Bag Magic stall to take £100 in notes and coins from the till float at around 10.20pm on August 8. Eight days later, the 29-year-old broke through the same door and lurked under another of the stalls until 3am.

Security officers watched on CCTV as he emerged from the Watch Surgery on August 16. Dudley Magistrates Court heard he had taken 289 watches, 50 rings and two charms and £28.44 in cash. Security staff managed to catch him.

But just days later Edge turned shoplifter when he made off with £150 worth of curtains from BHS at Merry Hill on October 4. Edge, of Dunns Bank, Quarry Bank, admitted two counts of burglary and one charge of theft at an earlier hearing.

He was given 12 weeks' imprisonment suspended for 12 months to be served concurrently for the burglaries.

He was also given a four-week jail term suspended for 12 months to be served consecutively. His defence said he was changing his life.

Keep fit in the park

AN OUTDOOR gym has opened at Buffery Park in Dudley following a fundraising drive by the park's Friends group.

The equipment is free to use and for all ages and abilities. It has been funded by a £20,000 grant to the Friends of Buffery Park from Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust.

The equipment has cost £44,000 and additional costs were covered through community donations and contributions from developers. Chairman of the Friends Steve Briscoe said: "This should help to improve the fitness of the community."



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MEMORY LANE



Front, Val Gadd, the treasurer and John Hadley, property steward of the church get set for the celebrations with members of the congregation looking on in the background



Families who were part of the methodist guild line up for the camera back in 1945



Scout group youngsters and Brownies from around the time of the Second World War



Boys and girls of the Sunday School from the church back in 1950

Congregation celebrates church's 150th milestone

AN historic church is gearing up for a series of events to mark its 150th anniversary.

Causeway Green Methodist Church in Oldbury was built in 1863 and on Sunday a special service was held to mark the milestone.

The special guest at Sunday's service, which started at 11am, was Chris Hughes-Smith, the former president of the Methodist Conference, while the church's current minister, Reverend Edson Dube was also in attendance.

Sunday school members, preachers and all those connected with the church were also invited to attend.

The service followed a sale in the church hall on Saturday and on Tuesday there was a banquet in the church hall for all those that wished to attend. Church property steward John Hadley, aged 68,

by Lisa Wright

who has been organist at the Pennycricket Lane church for the past 51 years said: "It was built in 1863 by a Mr W Parkes.

"The people in the small village decided to meet in the house of Mr Parkes to worship. The little cottage has long since been demolished and they purchased the land that the church now stands on.

Grateful

"He was so anxious to see the church built that he put the foundations in himself. He was a builder and they were allowed to stand and the church was built."

Mr Hadley added that this year's anniversary was a highlight in the history of the church.

"We are just very grateful that the church is still there because so many churches in the area have closed," he said.

Nowadays the church is a big part of the community, hosting local groups and classes for a range of activities.

Rev Dube, who has been at the church for six years, said: "It is a big part of the community and all ages come.

"It is traditional worship and we are one of the churches that has got the traditional service and that becomes attractive to the older generation.

"We also have Zumba classes, dance classes and Brownies using the building so it is kind of a centre for the village."

Rev Dube added that the anniversary would be a time for the community to 'rejoice'.

"It is a day when we think of the past and how God has worked in this area through the church and we also look at how we can be a church today and look at the church for the future. It is a very exciting time for us and also to look forward to the future."



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NEWS

MP: Time we knew how long HS2 trips will take

Afternoon delights for youngsters

STAFF at Oak House in West Bromwich have planned a fun filled afternoon of activities for the school half-term holiday.

The family funday is being held on Tuesday October 29 from noon to 4pm, with the last admission at 3.30.

Families can pop along to the house and enjoy the spooky trails, competitions, magic shows, balloon modelling, face painting, craft stalls selling novelty gifts, children's workshops and refreshments.

Staff at the house are busy putting up Halloween decorations and will be wearing scary costumes for the fun day.

Visitors are invited to to dress up too to get into the spirit of the occasion.

During the half-term school break Halloween craft afternoons will also be held at the house on Wednesday October 30 and Thursday October 31. They will take place from 1pm to 4pm on both days.

Visitors will be able to take part in trails and craft workshops and make some something that they can then take home. Admission to the events is free but there is a small charge for some activities.

For more details please visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/museums or call 0121 553 0759.

JOURNEY times between London and the West Midlands after the controversial £42.6 billion high speed rail line is built are still unknown, despite MPs being asked to back it, it has been revealed.

West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson has criticised the Government for not being able to confirm the details.

He asked questions of the Department for Transport about the HS2 project, while ministers have admitted that they could not suggest what the fastest journey times would be between Wolverhampton and London when completed.

It comes as concerns have been raised that the stations may lose some of their fast, direct trains to London amid proposals from Network Rail to transfer most long distance services to Birmingham. It may mean passengers are forced to change trains at Birmingham to go south from the Black Country or Crewe to go north from Stafford.

Backing

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin has stressed that the government is not backing HS2 to take services away from the Black Country or Staffordshire.

But questions still remain over how the West Coast Main Line will be used once HS2 is finally up and running between London and Birmingham from 2026 and north to Manchester and Leeds from 2033.

Mr Watson said: "When the government is about to spend £42.6bn worth of taxpayers' money on HS2, I think everyone in the Black Country has a right to know whether they will benefit from that investment."

"I am angered that ministers at the Department for Transport can't reveal whether journey times from Sandwell and Dudley and Wolverhampton will be faster or slower once HS2 is completed."



Rail times criticism - Tom Watson

He added: "Ministers need to be straight with taxpayers in the Black Country as to whether we will face cuts to direct services to London and slower journey times to pay for HS2." Transport minister Robert Goodwill told Mr Watson that the exact timetable, stopping patterns and services which will operate from the completion of HS2's first phase to Birmingham had yet to be determined. He said: "It is not realistic to set a timetable this far ahead."

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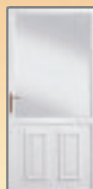


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FOCUS ON CRADLEY HEATH

Terror tales for chilling Haden Hill Halloween

A SPOOKY performance will be held at a museum in Cradley Heath to mark Halloween.

Haden Hill House Museum, off Barrs Road will be hosting popular theatre company Don't Go Into The Cellar on Thursday, October 31, at 6pm and again at 8pm. The company will perform an original theatre piece called Dread of Night, an evening of classic ghost and horror stories.

Booking is essential for these shows, which are likely to prove very popular. Entry is £6 which includes a cup of tea or coffee.

The show is suitable for adults and children over 12. Call 01384 569 444 to book.

Choir sing for suppers

SINGERS from one of the Black Country's oldest male voice choirs are preparing for a special performance early next month.

Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir will be singing A Feast of Song at Christ Church Quinton in Hagley Road West on Saturday, November 9 at 7.30 pm.

Tickets costing £5 including refreshments, are available from Barbara Burke on 0121 242 3741.

Funds raised by the concert will be going towards the church's new foodbank scheme.

Hard-hit traders pleading for parking fees to be axed

TRADERS in Cradley Heath, who say their business has almost halved since the introduction of parking fees for shoppers, are calling for the charges to be scrapped.

Some of the businesses which have been hit by the charges have said they are considering whether to shut up shop for good.

by Adam Grinsell

Meanwhile, council officers have revealed that they want Tesco to introduce parking charges at its car park as many drivers are heading there instead.

A total of 25 businesses in the area have now calling for Sandwell Council to provide one hour's free parking in the town to help boost trade.

They claim an average drop in business of 41 per cent.

Petition

A petition sent to council bosses says some traders are considering closing as it is difficult to pay their rent, and they claim the market is 'on the verge of death'.

They also want a free hour to allow shoppers to drop off goods at charity shops and collect ordered items.

In the petition, traders say: "Local residents complain about congested parking in side streets, especially by those working in Cradley Heath."

The parking fees were first introduced in April and Councillor Maria Crompton, the cabinet member for highways at Sandwell

Council, says the petition is still being considered and she is yet to make a decision. However, officers have recommended no action is taken.

In their report, officers state there are 'potentially significant health risks' associated with not charging at car parks in Cradley Heath because it would discourage workers from taking other forms of transport. This, they claim, would lead to fewer spaces available for shoppers and more inconsiderate parking.

The report adds: "The parking charges for Cradley Heath are lower than the existing charges in neighbouring authorities. It is unlikely that businesses will be disadvantaged and lose customers to other neighbouring areas, where the parking charges are at a higher rate."

The officers reveal that negotiations are under way with the town's Tesco store to introduce charges on its car park, as drivers are heading there instead of the council's paid-for spaces.



Getting in some practice before a 24-hour card making marathon next month at MSA Crafts in Cradley Heath are some of the crafters taking part. These include Yew Ehu Wong, Debbie Kinally, Jewel Ahumbe and Sue Hodgson

Card craft marathon for charity

NIMBLE-FINGERED crafters will be doing their bit for charity in a unique fundraiser at Cradley Heath. MSA Craft will be holding a 24-hour sponsored card-a-thon next month.

Owner Debbie Kinally said: "All the cards that will be made will be sold through the Mary Stevens shops. We came about the idea after one of my customers, who has a jewellery shop, did one for Acorns. We decided we would give it a go."

The fundraiser will start at 4pm on Friday, November 1, and run through to 4pm on November 2. People can make a donation by popping in to the store, located on Graingers Lane.

As well as around four members of staff taking part, some customers will also be lending a hand.

The shop will be open throughout the night and a donation from proceeds at the shop will also go to the charity. To find out more about craft classes at the shop call 01384 568 790.

Retired Old Hill minister to preach at family event

MEMBERS of a congregation at a church in Cradley Heath are inviting people to join a special family service this weekend.

The Black Country Mission will be holding the service at Cradley Heath Baptist Church, Church Road, on Saturday from 7pm to 8pm.

Bible

There will be alternative activities for the children during the sermon, which will be read by Rev John Knight, a retired Minister from Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill. The free event includes refreshments plus a free gift for every child and a free Bible for every adult.

Popular park among best

HADEN Hill Park in Cradley Heath has featured in a list of the country's most popular parks.

Two green spaces in Sandwell borough have beaten the competition to reach the top 10 of Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag People's Choice Awards - and there are no less than four of the borough's parks in the top 25.

Warley Woods, run by a community trust, came fifth with council-managed Sandwell Valley Country Park 10th. Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath, was 23rd.

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NEWS

Court move is branded sham and a shambles

Report by Andrew Turton and Daniel Wainwright

MAGISTRATES have branded a consultation over moves to cease criminal cases at Dudley Magistrates Court 'a sham', as more than 1,200 people signed a petition again the plan.

The petition was started in a bid to force the Government to rethink controversial plans to shake up the courts service in the Black Country. Under the proposals, the town's magistrates court would be stripped of its criminal casework which would instead be dealt with in Wolverhampton, Walsall or Sandwell.

Justices of the Peace and former probation workers joined Dudley North MP Ian Austin to share their fears over the plans as the petition was presented. But Justice Minister Shailash Vara has defended the Government move.

It is claimed the move would hit victims and witnesses who would be expected to travel longer distances to ahead hearings. They also voiced concerns over Dudley becoming one of the largest boroughs in the country without its own criminal court.

Dudley magistrate Chris Smith, who has heard cases in the borough for 28 years, said he believed 'justice will not be seen to be done' if this is agreed.

"The whole point with magistrates is that is local justice in the local community by local people. We would lose that completely," he said.

"Generally the magistrates are very disheartened, not only with regard to the possibility of the court closing but also the way that it has been done. The consultation itself is a sham and we have been made promises the court service cannot possibly keep if they close this magistrates' court."

Message

Former chairman of the Dudley bench Colin Knipe, who retired this year, added: "The court service has been starving Dudley of work over the last few years."

Mr Austin said he feared redundancies because of the shake-up and said it was another blow to Dudley after its police station was closed overnight.

Under the proposals Dudley Magistrates' Court would become a civil, family and tribunal centre.

Mr Austin said: "People in Dudley have sent a clear message - they don't want their criminal court closed down. The Government's plans would make Dudley the largest town in the UK without a criminal court when we should be moving more services into the town centre, not taking them away."

Mr Austin also launched a bid for a parliamentary debate on proposals to close the magistrates court. He presented the petition last week alongside campaigners including Dudley's community safety boss, Councillor Steve Waltho. But a minister has defended plans to axe Dudley's criminal court.

The Government has said there are no plans for any redundancies and that the change is a result of falling numbers of criminal cases.

MP Ian Austin questioned the implications for staff and asked whether the Government had taken travel time to other courts in Sandwell and Walsall into account.

Justice minister Shailesh Vara said: "There are no plans to make any staff redundant. It is proposed that Dudley courthouse will accommodate civil, family and tribunal hearings which will require staff resources thus reducing, possibly eliminating the need to ask staff to travel to neighbouring centres."

He added that 'the average travel times included in the consultation paper do not include potential traffic delays.'

Mr Austin said: "These answers show what a shambles this consultation has become. Like anyone who commutes from Dudley, I know how bad the traffic can get in the mornings and the Government expects victims and witnesses to get to court without any delays."

"It's also clear that the Government has been winding down Dudley Magistrates for some time, which is why magistrates are attending court a third less often than in 2010."

Sandra Vaughan, who has spent 34 years as a magistrate and is the longest serving justice for the Dudley and Halesowen bench, warned that it could result in witnesses having to attend court more than once.

She said: "The Dudley Court area is the largest out of the four courts which are being merged into the Black Country Court. This means that more people would be adversely affected by any closure or changes to criminal work in the Dudley Court."

"It is acknowledged that Wolverhampton, who appear to be identified as potentially the main focus for criminal work, is not fit for purpose and whilst Dudley may have some drawbacks it is a more modern building, easily accessible, with ample parking close by and good public transport. We should be looking at justice being delivered locally and speedily."

She added: "With the norm being to double and treble list trials it is inevitable that some will not be heard and witnesses will be expected to attend on more than one occasion."

"History has shown that often they will not come back a second time."

"When we look at the proposals for youths it is even more important that young people are dealt with locally and not have to travel long distances."



Dudley North MP Ian Austin with the petition outside the court

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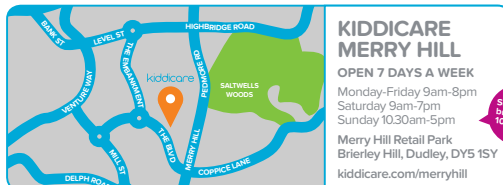


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The run up to Christmas Day involves lots of planning! The hardest and often most time-consuming part is buying the presents. Problem solved – just join in the fun at the fabulous Festive Gift Fair which returns to the NEC for four days from November 21-24.

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Dressed for the part these three girls are thrilled with their bags of purchases such as the lovely gifts (pictured left)

of owning a Chanel Bag? – Sally from Sally's Jewellery is an expert in sourcing awesome vintage fashion accessories and jewellery – a real treasure trove stall!

For the men in your life – chaps can be notoriously difficult to buy for – you'll find whisky, woolies, watches, clever gadgets and silly stocking fillers.

And for the little ones recreate the joys of Christmas past with a metre long tube of mini retro-sweets – all the old favourites, love hearts, refreshers, chews. Visit Arkay Sales stand where they will be demonstrating the new fun

Gyro car that twists and turns. Cast your child in the starring role as they embark on an adventure with their own personalised CD by On The Big Red Bus.

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NEWS

Pupils swing into action for a big conkers revival

How to play the game



The set

The best conkers are uncracked, firm and symmetrical. Make a hole through the middle, thread a piece of string about 25cm long through and tie. Wrap the string round your hand before taking the conker ready to strike.

The Hit

The person whose conker is getting hit lets it hang down from the string which is wrapped round their hand. The conker is held at the height their opponent chooses and is held perfectly still.

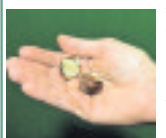


Snags

If the strings tangle, the first player to call 'strings' or 'snags' gets an extra shot. If a player hits his or her opponent's conker in such a way that it completes a whole circle, the player gets another go.

Stamps

If a player drops his or her conker, or it is knocked out of his hand the other player can shout 'stamps' and jump on it. However, should the fallen conker's owner first cry 'no stamps' then it should remain safe from the boot.



Winner

The game goes on in turns until one or other of the two conkers is destroyed. A victorious conker assumes the score of all its victim's precedent foes. If a sixer beats a fiver it becomes an elevener.

IT'S THE 'bonkers' ban which brought to a head the national debate about health and safety 'gone mad'.

The decision taken by scores of schools to outlaw conkers from the playground – amid concerns about nut allergies as well as injuries in combat – sparked a public outcry.

But with almost 200 competitors who last week descended on the World Conker Championships in Northamptonshire, schools in the Black Country and Staffordshire are reviving the popular pastime as they host their own contests.

And the goggles favoured by some safety first headteachers will be left behind as our school leaders prefer to simply have staff supervise the games.

Tradition

Toni Beech, acting headteacher at Pinfold Street Primary School in Wednesbury, said: "We don't have a conker policy. If some children wanted to bring them in to school we would set up a supervised area at lunchtime. I do think it is a shame that it is a dying tradition."

Gary Gentle, headteacher at Bilston Church of England Primary School in Albany Crescent, Bilston, said: "We are certainly not going to ban conkers here. The age of innocence is very much alive and kicking at this school."

And headteacher of Norton Canes Primary School, Paul Whitacre, has confirmed the school is continuing its traditional annual conker competition again in 2013.

Conkers hit the headlines in 2009 when then opposition leader David Cameron called for an end to what he saw as an overly cautious attitude to games



Norton Canes Primary pupils and pastimes which had once been national institutions.

Then in 2011 a report revealed games like conkers and British bulldogs were disappearing from school playgrounds amid health and safety concerns. The survey by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers found games like tag and marbles were also getting banned, with headteachers blaming the reduced number of staff available to supervise pupils.

At Devonshire Infants School in Smethwick, deputy headteacher Sharon Gibson said a risk assessment is carried out to make sure games are safe for pupils. She added: "We have organised conker competitions in the past which are supervised."

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NEARLY 25 years on, Miss Saigon has shown its enduring popularity by setting a new box office record ahead of its return to London next year.

The musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg sees Puccini's Madama Butterfly relocated to Saigon in 1975 and tells the story of a young Vietnamese bar worker called Kim who falls in love with a GI called Chris.

Miss Saigon opens at the Prince Edward Theatre in May 2014, the production's 25th anniversary year. Book your break now choosing from one of the options below.

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NEWS

Service aiming to solve problems and save lives

FOR DECADES, suicide has been a subject that people have been afraid to talk about. But now trained counsellor Lucy Shepherd is hoping to save lives by encouraging people to share their problems.

Mrs Shepherd, who became a counsellor a year ago after quitting her job as a recruitment manager is launching a new befriending and support service in the Black Country in order to reduce the number of people taking their own lives.

Based at Langley Park Community Centre in Oldbury, Suicide Response aims to provide face-to-face support for people across the West Midlands who have been experiencing suicidal thoughts.

Mrs Shepherd says the region is one of the hot-spot areas for suicides, and in recent years the number has been rising. Nationally, there were 6,045 suicides among people aged 15 and over in 2011, an increase of 437 compared to the previous year. More than a quarter of these deaths took place in the West Midlands, with 1,129 men and 398 women in the region taking their own lives.

"It has been increasing since the recession, a lot of people have been at crisis point for financial reasons, losing their homes," says Mrs Shepherd, who has recruited 12 trained volunteers to help with the project. There is a great taboo about suicide, people tend to think it is about mental health, but it isn't always about that.

"A lot of people we're working with are just struggling to get through the red tape, and we can help. Some of them might be having difficulty filling in the forms because they suffer from dyslexia for example."

As well as providing one-to-one meetings with clients, Suicide Response will also be holding weekly support group meetings at the Langley Centre. "We want to provide a safe place for those at risk to talk with



Trained counsellor Lucy Shepherd someone non-judgmental, someone who will listen and understand and help that person explore what is going on for them," says Mrs Shepherd.

"When people are discharged from hospital after a suicide attempt, too often they are often passed down the mental health route, or directed towards the Samaritans," says Mrs Shepherd.

She said the service is free to people who are contemplating suicide, but will also be offering face-to-face befriending to people who are feeling socially isolated at £12 a session.

● To contact Suicide Response, people should call 07896 296782.

A haunting Halloween at spooky museums

SPOOKY performances will be held in Cradley Heath and West Bromwich to mark Halloween.

Sandwell Museums will be hosting popular theatre company 'Don't Go Into The Cellar' at two of its sites

The company will perform an original theatre piece called Dread of Night, an evening of classic ghost and horror stories.

Booking is essential for these shows.

Barbecue

The first takes place at Haden Hill House Museum, off Barrs Road in Cradley Heath on October 31 at 6pm and 8pm.

Entry is £6 which includes a cup of tea or coffee. The show is suitable for adults and children over 12.

Call 01384 569 444 to book. It will then run at the Manor House Museum in Hall Green Road, West Bromwich on November 10 with shows at 6pm and 9pm.

Entry includes a barbecue with the meat sitting an hour before performances start.

Call 0121 588 2958 to book.

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NEWS

Race day on track to raise cash for new church boiler



Revvng up on the Scalextric is Rev Stephen Carter with Jacob Wimlett, Isabelle Cull, Ben Priest and Jonathan Cull. YOUNGSTERS switched off their game consoles, laptops and phones to step back a generation and take part in a popular slot car challenge.

Dozens of children attended St Peter's Church in Netherton to compete in a Scalextric race day.

A four-lane raceway was set up inside the church hall to give youngsters the chance to have a go at the electric car racing game – which was popular in the late 1980s and early '90s before giving way to computer gaming. The event was held to raise much-

needed cash for a new boiler at the church. Young children were among those who took part, paying 50p for 10 laps on the track. Adults were charged £1 a go at the event on Saturday.

The Reverend Stephen Carter said: "We had a host of children in and a big race track was set up. We got a lot of children and a few adult children."

Cost

"All the money raised will go towards the boiler appeal – we have to raise a lot of money to replace the boiler here in the church. Every little helps."

It will cost the church around £27,000 in total to fund the work and at

present £10,000 still needs to be raised towards the project.

Rev Carter said the church will use the money from fundraising, church funds and a loan to pay for the work.

He added: "The more we raise the less we have to take out on a loan – so we're trying our best to raise as much cash as possible."

In 2010 the historic building in St Peter's Road was hit by metal thieves. The riders stole a bell from the roof, also causing considerable damage to the site.

After that an appeal to raise £10,000 to repair the roof and replace the bell were launched



Community spirit right in the heart of Dudley....

Local business Plumbzone have kindly sponsored the Netherton Colts an under 11's football team.

Their sponsorship has enabled the team to purchase essential kit and equipment.

Team Manager of the Netherton Colts, Simon Lane expressed his gratitude to Arshad Mohamed, the Managing Director of Plumbzone and said that it is businesses like Plumbzone that help keep the grass roots of football going.

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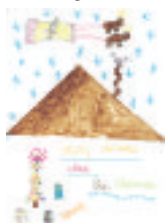
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NEWS

British medal at last for Arctic convoy heroes



Campaign - Mick Coyle

NOW, at last, Mick Coyle's widow can hold the medal that he campaigned for, officially recognising bravery in the treacherous Arctic convoys of the Second World War.

As she clutched the Arctic Star earned by her late husband, Phyllis Coyle, aged 85, of Pensnett, said: "It's lovely - I just resent that he wasn't alive to receive it."

Brave

Former Royal Navy stoker Mick, who died from lung cancer, aged 85, three years ago, was one of the brave men who served on the convoys, battling biting cold, mountainous seas and the danger of attacks from submarines below and bombers above, to deliver supplies to the Red Army.

In the 70 years since since he has received four medals from the Russians, who were very grateful to the British navy and merchant seamen.

He carried on battling for the Arctic convoy veterans to get a medal from their own country and took his campaign to Downing Street, when he met then Prime Minister Tony Blair in 2005.

Some time after that meeting, Mick said: "Mr Blair promised we would get some sort of recognition and he kept his promise - we didn't get a medal but we did get a badge."

The 'badge' was small but Phyllis said Mick never took it off his coat - although he still campaigned for a 'proper medal'.

Then, last December, Phyllis was overjoyed after Prime Minister David Cameron announced in Parliament that the men who helped take vital fuel, food and munitions to the Eastern Front would get an Arctic Convoys Star.

"He'd been trying to get it for years - he really fought for it," she said.

Mick was a stoker with the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1947 and sailed with four convoys on the perilous route to Russia.



Mick Coyle's proud widow Phyllis with the medal

Ambulance service takes on 111 hotline

THE AMBULANCE service will take over the running of controversial patient phone service NHS 111 in the West Midlands.

West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) has stepped in to run the operation, which caters for non-emergency calls and was launched earlier this year.

NHS Direct was running 111, but announced its intention to quit in July, saying the contracts were too expensive.

The ambulance service entered into talks to take over the running and has announced it has signed a deal to step in.

Training

It will now deliver the 111 service in Birmingham, Solihull, the Black Country, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Coventry and Warwickshire.

The ambulance service has introduced a training programme for phone staff.

Andy Williams, lead commissioner for the NHS 111 project team, said he was confident the ambulance service would deliver an improved service for patients and the public.

He added: "We have been working towards this step-in arrangement since NHS Direct announced its withdrawal from the contract."

"WMAS has already implemented an upgraded training programme for call handling staff, which will improve the clinical govern-

nance process, and this will continue for the next few months. We are pleased that West Midlands Ambulance Service is stepping in to provide this service as we believe it's a natural fit and will strengthen the service as we come into the winter season."

The NHS Direct announcement to pull out of the contract came as an undercover investigation revealed 'serious failings' in the system, with staff shortages, long waits for callers and unnecessary ambulance call-outs.

It admitted it had encountered 'significant problems' when it launched the contracts in the north west of England and West Midlands in March.

The organisation said calls took 'twice as long as expected' and, as a result, NHS Direct did not have 'sufficient capacity' to handle all them.

Anthony Marsh, WMAS chief executive, said: "We are delighted to be able to provide the NHS 111 service going forward."

We believe our expertise in running complex clinical call handling operations will allow us to bring real improvements.

We have already seen how well the NHS 111 and 999 service can integrate in other parts of the country."

The NHS Direct 0845 46 47 number will be switched off at the end of November in the West Midlands.

Callers will be advised to hang up and redial 111, which is free.


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Cancer group are in the pink over events



Deputy Mayor of Dudley, Margaret Aston, with Mr Vijay Ganesh, Marion Griffiths, breast care sister Joanne Cooke and members of the cancer support group

MEMBERS of a cancer support group were tickled pink at an awareness event helping sufferers and their families with advice and information.

Volunteers toasted the success of the Breast Cancer Care Group which has been supporting its members in Dudley for around a quarter of a century.

They host meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at the home of Dudley Cancer Support at the White House, Ednam Road. For the October meeting, which coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the group members decided to wear pink outfits to mark the occasion.

Guests at the event included the Deputy Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Margaret Aston, Russell's Hall Hospital breast cancer consultant Vijay Ganesh and breast care sister Joanne Cooke. Group organiser, Marion Griffiths, from Wollaston, Stourbridge, said the group was fantastic.

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Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

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THEATRE REVIEWS

Tennant makes arrogant king sympathetic

Richard II,
Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon

DAVID Tennant is the star attraction as a self-regarding monarch but there are many other fine performances, particularly by a silver-haired cohort of RSC veterans, in this traditional and accessible version of one of Shakespeare's lesser seen history plays.

The company's new artistic director Gregory Doran looks at a world where dignity and dynasty are destroyed by greed and ambition.

Girlishly

King Richard sets in motion his own decline by ordering the murder of the Duke of Gloucester. He never admits responsibility but a 'keep your mouth shut' glance at the Duke of Norfolk speaks volumes. Then he banishes the outspoken Bolingbroke and steals his inheritance.

Tennant effects a effete fluting English accent and with girlishly long locks portrays an arrogant and androgynous king. At one point he kisses the Duke of Aumerle, Oliver Rix, with passion.

There cannot be a greater contrast than with his eventual usurper, Nigel Lindsay's gruff and manly Bolingbroke,

the later King Henry IV, clanking around in armour and built like a prop forward.

In act one it seems unlikely that we could care less for the capricious King Richard but it is to the credit of the Broadchurch and Doctor Who actor that by the time he becomes Bolingbroke's prisoner, the hair, the simple white gown and the cross around his neck creates a Christ-like aura about the doomed king. The scene where he has to hand over his crown but asks his enemy to take it from his grasp is electrifying.

Excellent support comes from RSC old hands. These include Michael Pennington as the dying John of Gaunt, passionately delivering the famous 'England' speech; Oliver Ford Davis as an increasingly bewildered Duke of York who remains loyal to the crown, whoever wears it; and Jane Lapotaire as the grief-stricken Duchess of Gloucester.

A set consisting of minimalist metal gantry and giant trap door puts the emphasis on the actors and the production is enhanced by beautiful choral music and regal blasts of brass.

The play has near sold out at Stratford and transfers to London's Barbican in December, but it will also be seen live on cinema screens nationwide on November 13.

Leon Burakowski



David Tennant as Richard II

From here to obscurity for new show

From Here To Eternity,
Shaftesbury Theatre, London

THOSE looking for a musical to see on a trip to London's West End have a new option in this 1940s wartime epic that's just opened at the Shaftesbury. But don't take the kids or granny unless they don't mind hearing a barrage of F-words.

Those attracted by the name Tim Rice, this is the lyricist's first new work in over a decade, best be warned – The Lion King it isn't.

It is a grim and hard-hitting story of illicit lust and tarnished love, resentment and violence on an army base near Pearl Harbour in Hawaii before the Imperial Japanese Navy strike.

It is set in barracks, parade grounds

and in boxing rings, brothels and a gay bar (the latter populated by stereotypes). Ill-fated soldiers get stabbed, beaten to a pulp, bottoms are bared and the stage is urinated upon, there is racist and homophobic language.

Paradise

The drab set makes little use of the paradise island setting. The only lei these characters are interested in is not a floral garland. But in this maelstrom of a musical, based on the 1950s novel that yielded the Oscar-winning movie with Burt Lancaster and Frank Sinatra, are some good songs by Stuart Brayson and superb performances.

Tall, dark and handsome Darius Campbell (a Popstar when surnamed Danesh) has a faultless US accent and

a superb crooning voice as the sergeant who has an affair with the commander's wife, an assured performance by Rebecca Thornhill. Robert Lonsdale makes misfit Private Prewitt an interesting character, strumming his pre-Elvis rock 'n' roll ballad to his prostitute girlfriend played by fine singer Siobhan Harrison.

The star turn is Ryan Sampson, from TV's Plebs, as profane but plucky Italian-American Private Maggio, who connects with the audience as soon as he appears strumming a ukulele.

Grim musicals can be hits, look at Les Mis, but I suspect this show will go from here to obscurity. This musical is a curiosity for dedicated show fans and Darius admirers.

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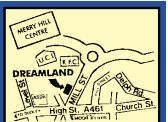
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What's On! Halesowen

REVIEW

Chris Wood, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton THERE is something eminently likeable about Chris Wood. Although one of the mature musicians on the folk circuit, he manages to retain an endearing boyish and playful charm.

This is how the award-winning musician got away with managing to disappear, leaving his audience in limbo, while he went in search of his cap in the dressing room. He had already set the tone of not taking himself seriously with a dull anecdote about guitar picks which managed to raise a laugh.

He opened properly with a bluesy number, a song he had learned from Martin Carthy. Oh My Hat is Frozen to My Head. He moved on to The Cottagers Reply which, like most of Wood's songs, has a gentle rolling sound enhancing the clever and poignant lyrics he is famous for.

The Sweetness Game brought in a country feel before the title track of his latest album None the Wiser, a snapshot of recession Britain. Wood's smooth voice and gently bouncing acoustic rhythms draw you in. He pulls out his version of Jerusalem. While the words are the same as the great British hymn he has rewritten the music and it never seems to sit easy as a combination.

There were more modern-day musings with More Fool Me about modern technology making it harder for musicians to make money.

Danny Farragher

70s idol turns dishwasher as part of Rep's new season

Rocky Horror is feeling fab at 40

IT'S been doing the Time Warp for 40 years now and The Rocky Horror Show has every intention of growing old disgracefully.

The rude and rollicking musical, a homage to sci-fi B-movies and rock 'n' roll, brings a new Brad and Janet to become the sort-of-unwilling victims of the sex-crazed Frank 'N' Furter at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Superstar

Former Tracy Beaker and Strictly dance finalist Dani Harner plays Janet in her first visit to Wolverhampton since her panto role six years ago.

Playing her fiancé Brad is Ben Forster, who won ITV's Superstar to play Jesus in the Jesus Christ Superstar arenas tour.

West End star of Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Oliver Thornton, is back in the high heels to play Frank 'N' Furter.

But the real stars of The Rocky Horror Show are always those audience members who dress outrageously and join in by shouting out responses to the action on stage.



Oliver Thornton as alien transvestite Frank 'N' Furter in the Rocky Horror Show

NEW plays premiering in Birmingham before their London opening, a celebration of influential Marxist playwright Bertolt Brecht and a return to drama for 1970s pop star David Essex feature in the Rep's season for 2014.

Artistic director of the revamped Centenary Square theatre, Roxana Silbert said: "The Rep has had an amazing 2013. We've celebrated our centenary as well as our re-opening alongside the Library of Birmingham."

"But there's no time for us to sit on our laurels, so I'm announcing our exciting new programme for the first half of 2014."

Pop star David Essex, who made a new career in musical theatre, returns to his roots as an actor in the European premiere of Canadian playwright Morris Panych's *The Dishwashers* on January 31 for a fortnight run.

An emphasis will be on female playwrights and this includes two premieres.

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti's humorous look at family life *Khandan* (Family), directed by Silbert, will be staged from May 22 before going to London's Royal Court Theatre.

Her last play at the Rep, a decade ago, caused controversy in the Sikh community. *Behzti* (Dishonour), was cancelled after protests outside the theatre and threats to the writer.

Birmingham playwright



David Essex is in a new play at Birmingham Rep in January. Picture: John James

Rachel De-la-hay's hard-hitting *Circles*, set on Birmingham's no.11 bus, is at the Rep's Door venue in May.

Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera* comes to the main stage in March in a new version by Jenny Sealey, one of the directors of the London 2012 Paralympics Opening Ceremony. While Silbert revives her RSC production of Brecht's *A Life of Galileo* starring Ian McDiarmid (February 28 - March 4).

Marking 100 years since the start of the First World War, the Rep presents a stage adaptation of Sebastian Faulk's novel *Birdsong* in March.

REVIEW

Fiddler on the Roof, Wolverhampton Grand

CRAIG Revel Horwood's revival of a 1960s Broadway favourite has plenty of heart to go with the memorable melodies - and a star turn by Paul Michael Glaser as a Jewish milkman in Tsarist Russia with daughters to marry off.

The Strictly Come Dancing judge is a most entertaining director and invests this tale of a Jewish community about to become evicted from their village with the right amounts of sentiment, poignancy and humour. Being a choreographer too, there are some impressive dance routines and the inevitable Revel Horwood flamboyance comes out in a delirious ghost scene with floating operatic phantom.

Tradition

Paul Michael Glaser owns the stage as Teyve, the kind-hearted father who is torn between tradition and love for his strong-willed daughters, whose unsuitable suitors include a poor tailor, a revolutionary firebrand and a Russian gentle. The role sees the American actor come full circle. He played the young rebel in the movie version, 42 years on he is the bearded old man. He invests the role with integrity and his *If I Were A Rich Man* was a highlight.

Having actor-musicians who play instruments on stage gives this production a vibrant sound. It returns to the Midlands at Birmingham Hippodrome from March 11 to 15. **LB**

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 26.10.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Trevor Eve (right)

Waking the Dead
Drama, 9pm

This modern classic stars Trevor Eve as Detective Superintendent Peter Boyd, a troubled and volatile – but brilliant – police officer who's an expert at closing cold cases. Boyd heads up a crack squad of police investigators who reopen unsolved murder cases, using new technology to re-examine evidence that hopefully will lead to the killer. In this week's episode workmen renovating the crypt of a Catholic church are alarmed when they discover the skeletal remains of a young man buried within the concrete. Sue Johnston, Holly Aird and Claire Goose also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.30** Live Formula 1: Indian Grand Prix – Qualifying. **10.45** Saturday Kitchen Live. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Formula 1: Indian Grand Prix – Qualifying Replay. **2.00** Live Rugby League World Cup. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News: Regional News. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. **6.30** Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present another ballroom battle as the pro-celebrity couples try to impress the judges and get their names at the top of the leaderboard. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm. **8.15** Atlantis. A night-time messenger brings news from outside the city for Ariadne, who calls on Jason and his friends to help guide her to its source – without raising the Queen's suspicions. **9.00** The National Lottery Live. Chris Evans reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball. **9.10** Casualty. Jeff steps in to help a father and his sons who get into trouble over a hidden bag of cash, while Sam treats a bride on her wedding day, unaware Tom intends to propose. **10.00** BBC News: Weather. **10.20** Match of the Day. Including highlights of Liverpool v West Bromwich Albion; National Lottery Update. **11.40** The Football League Show. Including highlights of Burnley v Queens Park Rangers. **12.55** Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.25** Live Formula 1: Indian Grand Prix – Practice Three. **7.35** Film: Carnival Boat. (1932) **8.35** Film: The Fallen Sparrow. (1943) **10.10** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.40** The Life of Birds. (R) **11.30** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **12.00** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **1.15** EastEnders. **3.05** Coast. **3.30** The House That Elton Built. (R) **4.30** Live Rugby League World Cup. **7.00** Flog It! Paul Martin travels to Corby in Northamptonshire and invites members of the public to have their antiques valued for auction. (R) **7.30** Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World. A look at research into the lives of the marine mammals, including insights into the creatures' intelligence, social interactions and parental instincts. (R) **8.30** Dad's Army. Mainwaring and Wilson are trapped in the bank vault with an exploded bomb. (R) **9.00** The 70s. Dominic Sandbrook examines the final three years of the decade, focusing on the violence that plagued concrete housing estates and the launch of Grange Hill. Last in the series. (R) **10.00** The Sarah Milligan Slightly Longer Television Programme. Extended edition. With Dan Cruickshank, Martin Lewis and Gabriella Ellis. **10.40** Film: An Education. (2009) Coming-of-age drama, starring Carey Mulligan and Peter Sarsgaard. **12.15** Film: Stolen. (2010) **1.40** This Is BBC Two. **4.30** (GMT) Live MotoGP.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.15** Doc Martin. (R) **2.15** Catchphrase. (R) **3.00** Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones. (2002) **5.40** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.50** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** New You've Been Framed! Featuring lookalikes of Harry Styles, Beyoncé and Sarah Millican. **6.30** Fool Britannia. A teacher takes on a martial arts champion to impress his girlfriend. **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Jason Gardiner, Ashley Roberts, Linda Robson and Christopher Biggins. **8.00** The X Factor. The remaining singers perform songs from the movies in the third live studio round, battling to win praise from the judges and the support of viewers at home. **10.00** The Jonathan Ross Show. With Naomi Campbell, three of the X Factor judges, Stephen Merchant and Laura Mvula. **11.00** ITV News: Weather. **11.15** Take Me Out. (R) **12.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** (GMT) The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** British Rallycross. **7.30** Film Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.05** Fraser. (R) **10.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Heston's Fairytale Feast. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.05** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Coulson and the team head to Asia to rescue a young man with an unusual and dangerous power, and an elusive girl in a floral dress may hold the key to the mystery. (R) **8.00** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets a master craftsman who plans to build a castle in rural Devon made entirely of mud, forming the huge property out of two curved roundhouses connected by glazing. (R) **9.00** Film: Die Hard 2. (1990) A lone cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia. **11.20** Film: Beverly Hills Cop II. (1987) Comedy thriller sequel, starring Eddie Murphy. **1.20** Film: It's Kind of a Funny Story. (2010) **2.00** (GMT) Hollyoaks. (R) **4.05** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.50** Sluggert. **11.20** Jungle Babies: Tarsier Tails. (R) **11.50** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **12.20** Animal Maternity. (R) **1.20** Film: Columbo: Murder by the Book. (1971) **3.00** Film: Run Silent, Run Deep. (1958) **4.50** Film: Attack on the Iron Coast. (1968) **6.35** Lost Heroes of World War One. How the war affected life in Britain. (R) **7.00** Nazi Titanic: Revealed. The story of the 1943 Nazi propaganda movie Titanic, which retold the disaster with the British as cowardly profiteers and the German crew members as the heroes. Part of the Britain at War season. (R) **8.00** War Hero in My Family. Paddy Ashdown uncovers the story of his father and Helen Lederer finds out about her grandfather, both of whom made valuable contributions during the course of the Second World War. Part of the Britain at War season. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Stephen King's Bag of Bones. A recently widowed novelist is plagued by disturbing dreams, ghostly visitations and messages from beyond the grave. Mystery horror, starring Pierce Brosnan. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** (GMT) Michaela's Wild Challenge. Investigating the strength of ants. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Match of the Day Live. England v Wales (Kick-off 7.05pm). **9.15** Film: Deja Vu (2006) Sci-fi thriller, starring Denzel Washington. **11.15** Family Guy **BBC Four** **7.00** Africa 8.00 Stories from the Dark Earth: Meet the Ancestors Revisited **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10 **ITV2** **3.55** Film: Honey (2003) **5.55** Film: Twister (1996) **10.00** The Xtra Factor **11.00** Celebrity Juice **11.50** The Magaluf Weekender **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **2.50** Film: Columbo: It's All in the Game (1993) **4.50** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00** Wire in the Blood **ITV4** **2.35** British Superbike Championship Highlights **4.10** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** I Want That Car **8.00** Hornblower **10.10** Film: The Shining (1980) **Drama** **3.05** Lovejoy **4.05** The Lost World **5.35** Birds of a Feather **7.35** Jonathan Creek. A sceptical researcher returns from the dead. **9.00** Waking the Dead. Feature-length episode. A skull is found buried in a church crypt. **11.25** Murphy's Law **5.00** (GMT) Close Film4 **2.50** Black Beauty (1971) **4.55** The Phantom (1996) **6.55** Letters to Juliet (2010) **9.00** Along Came a Spider (2001) Detective thriller prequel, starring Morgan Freeman. **11.00** Stake Land (2010)

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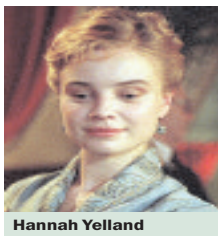
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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 27.10.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Hannah Yelland

Catherine Cookson's
The Secret
Drama, 9pm

Based on a novel by Catherine Cookson, this period drama concerns Freddie Musgrave, who, as a young man, fell in with a band of criminals and made a career as a smuggler. With the help of Maggie Hewitt, a respectable businesswoman who fell in love with him, Freddie was able to leave his life of crime behind him and has become a trusted employee of Maggie's firm. However, a face from Freddie's past – and a cache of rare gems – could destroy the new life Freddie has spent nearly two decades building. Colin Buchanan and Hannah Yelland star.

BBC1

6.00 (GMT) Breakfast. **7.10** Match of the Day. **(R) 8.30** Live Formula 1: Indian Grand Prix. **11.45** Sunday Politics. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 2.00** Formula 1: Indian Grand Prix Replay. **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Big Sing: The UK's Top 10 Hymns. **4.55** The Great British Year. **(R) 5.55** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.20 **Countryfile**. For the first time, the programme plays host to One Man and His Dog, the contest showcasing the skills and traditions of sheepdog training and handling. Matt Baker commentates.

7.20 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges. Earth, Wind & Fire provide the music.

8.00 **The Paradise**. Moray invites a business associate from Paris to visit, hoping he can strike a deal to sell the fireworks she has brought with her – but their intimacy arouses Denise's jealousy.

9.00 **By Any Means**. The team targets a gangland thug who walked free after murdering a young boy in broad daylight and is now marketing a hallucinogenic drug to children. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2**. Including highlights of Sunderland v Newcastle United.

11.50 **Rugby League World Cup**. **12.35** Weatherview. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 **Film**: (GMT) The Penguin Pool Murder. (1932) **7.05** **Film**: The 39 Steps. (1935) **8.30** Gardeners' World. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **3.00** MotoGP. **2.30** Flog It! **(R) 3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **(R) 4.00** Boxing. **5.30** Britain's Classroom Heroes.

6.30 **The Ginge, the Georgie and the Geek**.

7.00 **Dive WWII: Our Secret History**. Part two of two. The team uncovers more U-boats as well as submarines sunk as part of the German surrender and dive to the wreck of Hitler's deadliest vessel.

8.00 **Great Continental Railway Journeys**. New series. Michael Portillo travels through Spain as he once again ventures onto the European rail network, visiting Madrid, Córdoba, Seville, Algeciras and Gibraltar.

9.00 **A Very English Education**. Catching up with people featured in a 1979 series about Radley College.

10.00 **The Wrong Mans**. The duo find they have become high-profile fugitives. **(R)**

10.30 **QI XL**. Extended edition. With Izy Suttie, Tim Minchin and Bill Bailey.

11.15 **Never Mind the Buzzcocks**. Actress Kristen Schaal hosts the comedy music quiz. **(R)**

11.45 **Film: Just Like Heaven**. (2005) Romantic fantasy, with Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo.

1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. **(R) 2.10** Holy City. **(R) 3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 (GMT) CITV: (GMT) Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **(R) 6.35** Dino Dan. **(R) 6.50** Dino Dan. **(R) 7.00** Animals. **(R) 7.10** Animals. **(R) 7.15** Animals. **(R) 7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. **(R) 7.50** Big Time Rush. **8.15** Bolton Knockout Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Storage Hoarders. **(R) 10.30** Sunday Side Up. **11.30** Sunday Scoop. **12.30** ITV News; Weather.

1.35 The FA Cup Draw. **2.05** The X Factor. **(R) 4.05** Fool Britannia. **(R) 4.35** Downton Abbey. **(R) 5.40** Prize Island.

6.35 **Regional Programme**; Weather.

6.45 **ITV News**; Weather.

7.00 **Surprise Surprise**. A stroke victim is introduced to his cycling hero Mark Cavendish.

8.00 **The X Factor Results**. The two least popular acts sing for survival.

9.00 **Downton Abbey**. Rose's surprise contribution to Robert's birthday party ruffles feathers. Mary faces repercussions when a new farming venture is launched, and Edith receives more unwelcome news.

10.05 **ITV News**; Weather.

10.20 **Men Behind Bars** with Trevor McDonald. Part two of two. The journalist meets an inmate who spent 35 years on the run. **(R)**

11.20 **Premiership Rugby Union**. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures.

12.15 The Store. **2.20** British Superbike Championship. **(R) 4.10** Deal or No Deal. **(R) 5.50** Countdown. **(R) 5.50** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. **(R)**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 (GMT) The Hoobs. **(R) 6.35** The Hoobs. **(R) 7.00** The American Football Show. **(R) 7.55** Killarney Adventure Race. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 9.00** Frasier. **(R) 9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.55** The Simpsons. **(R) 1.25** The Simpsons. **(R) 1.55** Film: Maid in Manhattan. (2002) **4.00** Channel 4 News. **4.30** American Football Live. **8.00** **Bigfoot Files**. Mark Evans travels to America's Pacific Northwest to meet people who claim to have come face to face with a sasquatch, and Bryan Sykes reveals the results of his DNA tests.

9.00 **Homeland**. Carrie learns the CIA can still exert power when needed, Saul and Fara follow the money trail to an unexpected location, and Dana goes missing.

10.05 **Was It Something I Said?** David Mitchell hosts the comedy panel show, with team captains Micky Flanagan and Richard Ayoade joined by guests Bob Mortimer and Katherine Ryan. Brian Blessed is the narrator.

10.35 **Toast of London**. Steven wins a part in a new play.

11.05 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man**. With Masters of Sex star Michael Sheen, Britain's Got Talent's Amanda Holden, Thirty Seconds to Mars frontman Jared Leto, TV personality Karl Pilkington and Swedish duo Icona Pop. **(R)**

12.10 **American Football Live**. Minnesota Vikings v Green Bay Packers (Kick-off 12.30am). **3.45** FIM Superbike World Championship. **(R) 4.10** Deal or No Deal. **(R) 5.50** Countdown. **(R) 5.50** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 (GMT) Milkshake!: (GMT) Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 6.15** Fil and the Flowercots. **(R) 6.25** Bubble Guppies. **(R) 6.35** The Mr Men Show. **(R) 6.50** Chloe's Closet. **(R) 7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. **(R) 7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. **(R) 7.20** Make Way for Noddy. **(R) 7.35** City of Friends. **(R) 7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. **(R) 7.55** Little Princess. **(R) 8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. **(R) 8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **(R) 8.45** Hana's Helpline. **(R) 9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R) 9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. **(R) 9.25** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 9.40** Jelly Jam. **(R) 10.00** Great Run Series. **12.00** **Film**: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009) **1.40** **Film**: The Ghost of Greville Lodge. (2000) **3.30** **Film**: The Canterville Ghost. (1996) **5.15** **Film**: Monster House. (2006)

6.55 **Film**: Ghostbusters. (1984) Supernatural comedy, starring Bill Murray.

8.55 **5 News Weekend**.

9.00 **Film**: Scream 4. (2011) Premiere. Massacre survivor Sidney Prescott faces a new masked killer marking the anniversary of the original killings. Horror sequel, starring Neve Campbell.

11.10 **Scream: The True Story**. The inspiration behind the horror movie.

12.05 **Film**: The Wicker Man. (2006) Horror remake, starring Nicolas Cage. **1.55** SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 4.50** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.00** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.05** Hana's Helpline. **(R) 5.20** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.25** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.40** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.50** Hana's Helpline. **(R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 (GMT) Formula 1: Indian Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Atlantis **8.45** Pop's Greatest Dance Craze **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Sweat the Small Stuff **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 (GMT) Serengeti: Unnatural Histories. **8.00** Dreaming the Impossible: Unbuilt Britain **9.00** The Golden Age of Steam Railways **11.00** Medieval Lives: Birth, Marriage, Death

ITV2
2.20 **Film**: Honey (2003) **4.25** **Film**: Casper (1995) **6.25** **Film**: The Perfect Storm (2000) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Freshers **11.50** Tricked

ITV3
2.00 Foyle's War **4.05** **Film**: Carry On Cruising (1962) **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Crime Thriller Awards 2013 **10.35** **Film**: The Elephant Man (1980)

ITV4
3.00 The Saint **4.00** **Film**: The Wagon (1967) **6.00** **Film**: The 'Burbis (1989) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** **Film**: Passenger 57 (1992) **10.50** James Cracknell: Sports Life Stories **11.50** **Film**: Demolition Man (1993)

Drama
3.00 Catherine Cookson's The Secret **6.00** Bergerac **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine **7.40** Lark Rise to Candleford. A Lark Rise man is arrested for striking his wife. **9.00** Catherine Cookson's The Secret. Feature-length thriller set in 19th-century Tyneside.

Film
5.15 Doctor Doolittle (1967) **6.05** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **9.00** Escape from Alcatraz (1979) **11.15** After the Sunset (2004)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Final Destination, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A teenager's grim premonition saves his schoolmates from dying in a plane crash, but despite their narrow escape, the vengeful spirit of death refuses to be outwitted and the survivors fall victim to a series of bizarre mishaps. Horror, starring Devon Sawa, Ali Larter, Kerr Smith, Kristen Cloke and Seann William Scott. (2000)

TUESDAY

Archipelago, BBC1, 12.05am

A man prepares to leave home to do voluntary work in Africa. His mother plans to see him off with a family get-together at their holiday home in the Isles of Scilly, but the gathering only exposes the deep-seated conflicts between them. Drama, starring Tom Hiddleston, Kate Fahy, Amy Lloyd and Lydia Leonard. (2010)

WEDNESDAY

The Ghost of Greville Lodge, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A teenage orphan is invited to stay at his great-uncle's sprawling country manor, where he becomes aware of ghostly happenings – and the mysteriously locked doors of the west wing. Then one night he wakes up to find himself in the middle of tragic past events. Family drama, starring George Cole, Prunella Scales, Jon Newman and Rebecca Weeks. (2000)



Final Destination, Monday, Channel 5, 10.55pm

THURSDAY

The Canterville Ghost, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A crochety English ghost wages war on the American family occupying his ancestral home, but ends up forming an unexpected friendship with the daughter, who helps break the curse that prevents him resting in peace. Supernatural comedy based on Oscar Wilde's classic ghost story, starring Patrick Stewart, Neve Campbell, Ed Wiley and Cherie Lunghi. (1996)

FRIDAY

TT: Closer to the Edge, ITV, 10.35pm

Documentary following the annual Tourist Trophy motorcycle race held on the Isle of Man. The event has a reputation as one of the most dangerous motorcycling events in the world, with riders frequently being killed on the course. The film follows several competitors in the 2010 TT, including reigning champion John McGuinness. (2011)

Halloween: Resurrection, BBC1, 11.50pm

Unstoppable killer Michael Myers returns to his childhood home where teenagers are misguidedly spending the night intending to record their every move on webcam and broadcast it live on the internet. Horror sequel, starring Brad Loree, Busta Rhymes, Tyra Banks, Sean Patrick Thomas and Bianca Kajlich. (2002)

Pick of the Week

Order is in short supply on the streets of Whitechapel

Blood, gore, violence and shattered personal lives – they're all just in a day's work for the coppers working on Ripper Street.

Despite being set in 1890, this drama, which returns for its second series this week, bears all the hallmarks of 21st century television thanks to its near-the-knuckle depictions of crimes, brutal plots and fast-paced approach to storytelling.

And although those factors are enough to make any programme compelling, Ripper Street also has a superb cast, led by Matthew Macfadyen and Adam Rothenberg.

All three return here to play their heroic if somewhat flawed characters who are trying to keep Whitechapel's streets clean – which, it seems, is an impossible job.

Life has changed for the three main characters since we last saw them; Drake (Flynn) has a new wife who seems to be smoothing down his rough edges, Jackson (Rothenberg) is beginning to wonder if Whitechapel is really the place to put down roots, while Reid (Macfadyen) has undergone the biggest change of all.

"He's no longer with his wife, who has left home, and the audience discovers why during the first episode," explains the former Spooks star. "They had a very traumatic end to the first series and he'd given her false hope that he'd found their missing daughter. It turned out it wasn't her and so that was pretty hard for them both and their marriage dissolved."

"Anyway, he's on his own and his house is a mess. He sleeps at the office in Leman Street most nights and he's in quite a lonely and dark place but as always he throws himself into his work and that's his constant salvation."

In the first episode, a policeman has been thrown out of a window onto the iron railings below, and Reid is keen to find out whodunit as soon as possible – after all, if the police are proven to be fallible, criminals everywhere could run amok.

The dead officer was stationed in neighbouring K-Division, led by the amoral Jedediah Shine, and Reid's investigation sees him locking horns not only with his formidable colleague, but also with members of the emergent Chinatown community who

appear to know more than they're letting on.

"It's always thrilling to learn about the new casting and people who are coming in," says Macfadyen. "We've got Joseph Mawle who comes in and plays Jedediah Shine and he's a terrific actor."

Mawle's previous credits include Birdsong, Game of Thrones and Red Riding, but he's rarely played somebody as villainous as Shine.

"Shine runs the Limehouse division and Reid runs the Whitechapel division," Macfadyen reveals. "I think as far as Reid knows he is a good policeman."

"Initially, they work together and then doubts start to grow about Shine and what kind of man he is..."

But really, at the heart of the drama is the bromance between the three central characters.

"It's a lovely dynamic because it is two and one – three is always two and one, it's a constantly shifting thing. Two are fighting and one is breaking up the fight. It's great and they are lovely actors so it just gets better and better."



Matthew Macfadyen stars in Ripper Street, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Gadget Show Channel 5, 8pm

Recently, we've got used to seeing Rachel Riley wearing sequins, fake tan and a slightly uncertain expression as she takes the floor on Strictly Come Dancing. But this week, she's indulging in a very different type of dress-up as she joins forces with Jason Bradbury to build two high-tech Halloween costumes. (Yes, even more high-tech than cutting two eyeholes in an old bed sheet). But when they take to the streets of Birmingham in their new outfits, will the public be scared witless or just a bit bemused?

TUESDAY

The Escape Artist BBC1, 9pm

David Tennant's latest foray into the fictional crime world sounds very intriguing indeed. In this three-part he plays Will Burton, a junior barrister on the rise. He's expected to become a QC, and thanks to his sharp wits and intellectual capacity, has never been defeated in court – everyone he has ever defended has been acquitted. But Will is about to learn the hard way that winning at all costs isn't necessarily the right thing to do after his latest client, Liam Foyle, turns out to be a serial killer who, thanks to Will's expertise, is about to be let out onto the streets to strike again...

On the Run ITV, 9pm

Nigel Burnell is a sex offender from South Wales who breached a court order and went on the run to

Portugal. Lukasz Sawicki failed to appear in court for a charge of sexual assault and is wanted in Poland for threats to kill after being convicted in his absence. This one-off documentary attempts to track down the pair of wanted criminals so they can be brought to justice. Presenters Natasha Kaplinsky and Mark Williams-Thomas reveal how their undercover team trace fugitives on the run from the law. However, with the Portuguese police proving reluctant to arrest Burnell, and Sawicki proving elusive, the respective manhunts prove tricky.

WEDNESDAY

Ambassadors BBC2, 9pm

The opening episode of this sitcom focused on the new British ambassador to Tajikistan's efforts to land a lucrative deal for the UK. In the second edition, somebody else tries to land a lucrative deal for the UK. There's a pattern emerging, but we hope it doesn't last long because if it does, the welcome afforded to the series is soon going to wear thin. Here, Tom Hollander guest stars as Prince Mark of Bath – the episode reunites him with writer James Wood, who not only co-wrote Ambassadors, but penned the actor's religious sitcom Rev. Prince Mark manages to upset everyone while trying to secure drilling licences for AngloBrit Oil – but an unexpected turn of events could turn him into an unlikely hero.

Mercury Prize Live Winner Announcement Channel 4, 10pm

For the last 21 years, the Mercury Prize has been rewarding the brightest, most talented but not always the richest or the most conformist of British and Irish music-makers with what is seen as one of our most prestigious music prizes. Over the years it's helped spotlight talent such as Primal Scream, Suede, Portishead, Roni Size, and last year's winner, Alt-J. In 2013, Arctic Monkeys; David Bowie; Disclosure; Foals; Jake Bugg; James Blake; Jon Hopkins; Laura Marling; Laura Mvula; Rudimental; Savages; and Yourself Villagers are all in the running to take the prize. We have no idea who will win, but we can tell you Lauren Laverne and Nick Grimshaw will be covering the results live from the Roundhouse in London.

THURSDAY

Bedlam Channel 4, 9pm

We may like to think we've come a long way since the days when people with a mental illness were incarcerated in 'Bedlams', but the truth is there are still many myths and stigmas attached to psychiatric treatment. This new documentary series challenges the stereotypes by going behind the scenes at the world's

oldest psychiatric institution. The first episode focuses on one of the most common mental illnesses in Britain today – anxiety. The Bethlem Royal Psychiatric Hospital in South London is a specialist unit that treats some of the most extreme cases, most of whom have been diagnosed with a form of OCD. For example, James, 23, suffers from a debilitating fear that he'll lose control of his bowels in public.

Person of Interest

Channel 5, 10pm

The last series of JJ Abrams and Jonathan Nolan's complex saga ended with Finch (Michael Emerson) being abducted by Root (Amy Acker), a contract killer and computer hacker obsessed with the machine. However, she has no idea Finch has programmed it to use Reese (Jim Caviezel) as the contingency if anything happens to him. In this second episode, Carter (Taraji P Henson) goes through the files of Hanna (Emily Robinson), a 14-year old who walked out of a Texas library in 1991 and apparently vanished without a trace.

FRIDAY

Chris Tarrant Goes Fishing Channel 5, 7pm

For a man who loves casting off as much as he loves asking folks if that's their final answer?, it seemed only a matter of time before Chris Tarrant was given a show of his own... and here it is. The Who Wants To Be A Millionaire host will be exploring some of the world's greatest fishing grounds in the company of professional fisherman and guide John Horsey. First stop for the duo is the Maldives.

The Gadget Show, Monday, Channel 5, 8pm

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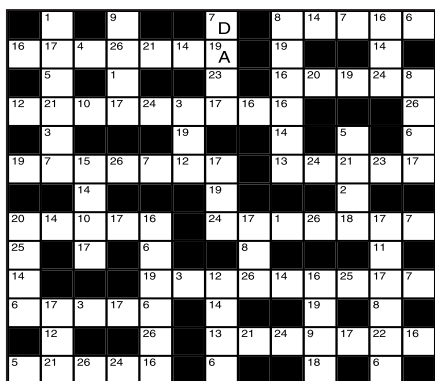
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.244

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

R E I V N M P X H F T D Y
K Q Z L S G W C U B O A J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

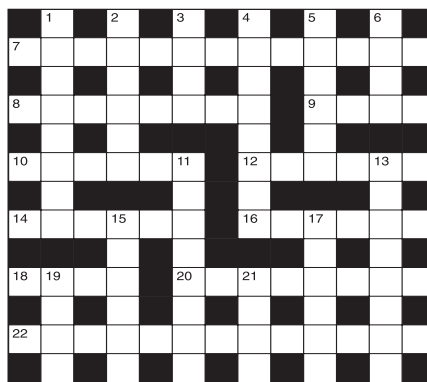
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. A grave charge? (4-9)
8. Not the dawn chorus, presumably (4,4)
9. It gets me back in the newspaper (4)
10. Its employer doesn't want to leave a bad mark (6)
12. Foreigner installed in the desk I'm ousted from (6)
14. This system has point (6)
16. Withdraw a direction to surrender (6)
18. A little lower - down the leg (4)
20. Even its pursuers want to be! (8)
22. Returns without having made any deductions (5,8)

Down

1. Meet a number on the border (8)
2. They have beastly laughs (6)
3. Prepare for take off? (4)
4. Walks and causes amazement (8)
5. It's a scream! (6)
6. A joint account at the bank needs part of it (4)
11. A patient is better after it (8)
13. Ship's officer about to prepare a book to make one think! (8)
15. Say no, it's useless (6)
17. Belief in solvency? (6)
19. Melodies people may put on (4)
21. Resort looks agreeable on paper (4)



Quick Clues:

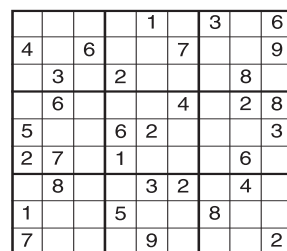
Across

7. Disputable (13)
8. Throttle (8)
9. Merit (4)
10. Sake (6)
12. Inflict (6)
14. Adopt (6)
16. Company of performers (6)
18. Girl (4)
20. Slow (8)
22. Unkind (13)

Down

1. Citadel (8)
2. Layers (6)
3. Yearn (4)
4. Abandoned (8)
5. Slumbering (6)
6. Just (4)
11. Diabolic (8)
13. Divided (8)
15. Result (6)
17. Clamour (6)
19. Mother's sister (4)
21. Swimming-pool (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	9	7	1	3	6	5	4	2
3	4	5	9	2	6	1	7	8
2	6	1	4	5	7	3	8	9
7	1	6	3	8	9	2	5	4
5	8	7	4	2	9	6	1	3
9	2	4	5	6	1	8	7	3
1	5	2	6	7	3	4	9	8
4	7	8	2	9	5	1	3	6
6	3	9	8	1	4	7	2	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stow; 8 Overthrown; 9 Idolater; 10 Pact; 12 Groove; 14 Shunts; 15 Molest; 17 Reduce; 18 Veal; 19 Diplomat; 21 Schooltime; 22 Reed. Down: 2 Tender love; 3 Wool; 4 Settler; 5 Storks; 6 Propound; 7 Knot; 11 Cat's cradle; 13 Overlook; 16 Toodle; 17 Repair; 18 Visa; 20 Over. QUICK - Across: 1 Iota; 8 Strike dumb; 9 Pleasant; 10 Acts; 12 Efface; 14 Heeded; 15 Guards; 17 Saturn; 18 Asps; 19 Reclaims; 21 Above board; 22 Send. Down: 2 On all fours; 3 Asia; 4 Grease; 5 Sketch; 6 Adjacent; 7 Ebbs; 11 The Kremlin; 13 Abrasive; 16 Scribe; 17 Social; 18 Alas; 20 Adds.



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 - 4 1/4 ROAST CHICKEN & CHIPS
 - 5 DONER MEAT & CHIPS
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Chips (large)	£2.30
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Cod**	£3.95
Medium Fish	£1.85
Plaice**	£3.95
Haddock**	£3.95
Fish Bites (6)	£1.50
Scampi (10)	£2.50
Scallops	£0.35
Fish Roe**	£2.95
Tinned Roe	£0.99
Fish Cake	£0.85
Fish Bites	£0.30
Peas/Curry/Gravy (small)	£0.75
Peas / Curry / Gravy (large)	£0.95

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Pickled Egg	£0.45
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1/2lb Beefburger**	£2.65
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Chicken Fillet Burger**	£2.10
Veggie Burger**	£1.99
Chicken Kebab Burger**	£1.99
Doner Kebab Burger**	£1.99
Royal Burger**	£2.60
(with layer of Kebab Meat)	£2.75

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Steak & Kidney	£1.85
Chicken & Mushroom	£1.85
Beef & Onion	£1.85

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Balti Pie**	£1.85
Cheese & Onion**	£1.75
Beef & Onion	£1.75
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Vegetarian Burger**	£1.99
Salad Kebab**	£1.75
Onion Ring	£0.15
Onion Ring (x7)	£0.80
Battered Mushroom	£0.20
Battered Mushroom (x6)	£0.95
Cheese & Onion Pasty	£1.75
Cheese & Onion Croquette	£0.85

Scallop	£0.35
Tray of Salad	£0.95
Scallop Burger/Chip Burger	£0.95
Extra Salad	£0.35
Cheese	£0.20

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Doner Kebab**	£3.75
Chicken Kebab**	£3.99
Mixed Kebab**	£4.10
(Peri Peri & Tandoori)	
Doner Meat & Chips (50/50 option)	£3.75
Chicken Meat & Chips (50/50 option)	£3.99
Mixed Meat & Chips (50/50 option)	£4.10
Tray of Doner Meat	£2.99
Tray of Chicken Meat	£3.20

Fish Kebab**	£4.25
Make it a Naan Bread add**	£0.80

WRAPS

Doner Wrap**	£2.95
Chicken Wrap**	£2.99

SAUCES

Chilli, Mayo, Mint, BBQ, Garlic Mayo, Lemon, Mint Yoghurt & Sweet Chilli	
--	--

Kids Meal Combo £2.65

CHIPS WITH ANY ONE COMBINATION:

3 Nuggets, 3 Fish Bites,

1 Fish Cake or Small Sausage

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KEY: ** order your meal on entry 50/50 option half chips half salad option

Property

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It has an entrance hall with laminate flooring and an understairs storage cupboard, a lounge with a gas fire with a surround and laminate flooring, a kitchen with a sink drainer with one bowl, tiling to splash backs, an electric oven, gas hob, cooker hood and tiled flooring.

Upstairs, bedroom one overlooks the front, bedroom two overlooks the rear, having built-in wardrobes, while bedroom three overlooks the front, and has laminate flooring. The bathroom

has a bath with a shower over and overlooks the rear.

Outside the front garden has off road parking, a lawned area, borders and shrubs.

The rear garden has a paved patio area, lawn and borders. The garage has up-and-over doors, power and plumbing.

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Halesowen Batsman Close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One bedroom first floor flat * Private entrance hall & parking space * Lounge, fitted kitchen with oven, hob, fridge & washing machine * Bathroom with shower over bath * Fitted carpets * Vacant possession available * EPC = B £70,000	Oldbury Wolverhampton Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A spacious traditional style link detached house * Through room forming lounge and dining area * Kitchen, utility and conservatory, ground floor wc * Three first floor bedrooms, bathroom and Separate wc * Conservatory, garage converted into further ground floor bedroom * Scope for substantial extension subject to planning permission EPC = E Offers in the region of £285,000	Halesowen Newbury Close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Luxury ground floor apartment * Three bedrooms all with ensuites * Superb fitted kitchen with appliances * Finished to a superior specification * Air conditioning * Allocated parking & CCTV * EPC = C Offers in the region of £255,000	Quinton Higgins Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Semi detached house * Living room and dining room * Kitchen and utility * Two bedrooms * Study/cot room * EPC = D Offers in the region of £124,950	Halesowen Victoria Court Binswood Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spacious first floor flat * Two bedrooms * shower room * Lounge with balcony * Kitchen * Communal gardens * Communal off road parking * Vacant possession available * EPC = C Offers in the region of £79,950	Oldbury Brandhall Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Link detached house * Through living room * Downstairs wc * Utility * Three bedrooms * Garage * EPC = E Offers in the region of £199,950	Halesowen Adam Court Alexandra Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ground floor apartment * Two spacious bedrooms * Lounge with bay window * Bathroom with both bath and shower * Fitted kitchen with host of appliances * Allocated parking, gas central heating * Double glazed windows * Vacant possession available * EPC = D Offers in the region of £110,000
Smethwick Pitcairn Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Semi detached house * Through Room forming lounge and dining room * Utility and wc * Three bedrooms * Garage * Pleasant rear garden * EPC = F Offers in the region of £189,950	Oldbury Chance Croft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * End Terraced House * Kitchen/Dining Room * Downstairs wc * Three bedrooms * Landscaped rear garden * EPC = C Offers in the region of £129,950	Halesowen Edward Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * End terraced house * Recently modernised and improved * Kitchen/dining room * Downstairs wc * Two bedrooms * Off road parking * EPC = D Offers in the region of £119,950	Rowley Regis Cakemore Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Semi Detached * Three Good Sized Bedrooms * Two Reception Rooms * Off Road Parking * Rear Garage With Electric Door * EPC = C Offers in the region of £129,950	Oldbury Apsley Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 4/potential 5 bedrooms * Through living room and sun lounge * Fitted kitchen with oven, hob, cookerhood and dishwasher * Large garage, sept w.c., enclosed gardens * Wet room with white suite and shower * Gas boiler heating radiators, vacant possession available * EPC = B £189,950	Rowley Regis Glaslyn Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ground Floor Flat * Open plan Kitchen/Dining/Living area * Two bedrooms * Bathroom and en-suite shower room * Garage * EPC = C Offers in the region of £119,950	Oldbury Queensridge Court Queensway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * First Floor Luxury Retirement Flat * Complex with Host of Onsite Facilities * Age Requirement of 55 years * Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen * Principal Bedroom with En-Suite * Further Bedroom (or Dining Room) * Vacant Possession Available * 25% Shared Equity Subject to Rent & Charges * EPC = B £27,875

Property

Home with a hot tub



A sun house and hot tub are among attractions at this five-bedroom detached house in Sedgley with patio and decking too

A FIVE-BEDROOMED detached family home with an L-shaped lounge/diner, dining kitchen and a laundrette, 178 Northway, Sedgley is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at a reduced price of £234,950.

It has an entrance hall, L-shaped lounge/diner, dining room, dining kitchen, laundrette, shower room, five bedrooms, a bathroom, rear garden and a garage. In further detail the entrance hall has a ceramic tiled floor, cloaks cupboard and stairs off.

The L-shaped lounge/diner has a modern pebble effect

gas fire and sliding patio doors to the garden. The dining kitchen has a split level cooker, four ring gas hob, cooker hood, wall and floor tiling, cloaks cupboard and door out to the rear garden. The shower room includes a shower cubicle, vanity unit, chrome heated towel rail, wall floor tiling. Bedrooms one and five have built in furniture, while the remaining three bedrooms have wardrobes.

The bathroom features wall tiling and laminate flooring. The rear garden has a patio area, decking, timber sun house and a spa hot tub, while the garage also has a door to the rear garden.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net

New site is opening to the public next month

WORCESTERSHIRE property-seekers can discover more about the stylish range of homes available at Taylor Wimpey's Lucet Meadow development in Redditch when the site is officially unveiled next month.

By visiting the new Sales Cabin, which opens in November, visitors will be able to browse detailed plans for the full selection of impressive two, three and four-bedroom properties – and take their pick from the first available plots.

They'll also be able to find out about Taylor Wimpey's range of helpful incentives for purchasers in a range of circumstances.

Launch

Anne Wallace, Regional Sales and Marketing Director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "We are very excited about the eagerly-anticipated launch of Lucet Meadow, with the new Sales Centre opening in November.

"With the development already generating huge levels of interest from potential purchasers, I'd urge anyone hoping to find their perfect property here to visit us without delay – or risk missing out."

Just one of the high-quality properties at Lucet Meadow is the two-bedroom 'Appleford' featuring an open-plan kitchen/living/dining room



opening through French doors to the private rear garden, with a guest cloakroom completing the ground-floor layout.

Upstairs, the landing leads to a master bedroom, a further double bedroom and a main bathroom, while outside there are two allocated parking spaces.

All new homes at the development are completed to a high standard specification, including energy efficient central heating, double glazing and a

fitted kitchen with integrated oven, hob and hood.

The Government's Help to Buy scheme enables first-time buyers and those looking to move on from an existing property to purchase their new home for 80 per cent of its full price, including a deposit as low as five per cent.

The development is located in Woodrow North, Redditch, B98 7QQ, and further information is available by calling 01527 910147.



Bearwood home priced at £154,950

End terrace has no upward chain

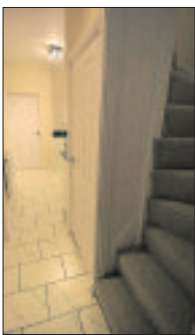
A FULLY refurbished, traditional end terrace with no upward chain is available at St Marys Road in Bearwood.

Priced £154,950, accommodation includes entrance, two reception rooms, inner hallway, under stairs storage, kitchen, WC, two bedrooms, bathroom and front and rear gardens.

The property is ideally situated with excellent transport links to Birmingham city centre. It is within close proximity of Bearwood High Street and schools. Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods are also close by.

This traditional terrace is a most sought after style, popular amongst local residents and in keeping with the character of the area.

Call Oulsnam on 0121 429 9986.



Inside the refurbished home

Hicks Hadley

hickshadley.com
0121 585 6688

Halesowen Office

EPC: C

ROWLEY REGIS, Pear Tree Drive£650 pcm
Sited in a quiet cul-de-sac and close to the M5. This modern unfurnished detached house comprises of 1 reception room, fitted dining/kitchen, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, 3 bedrooms, house bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite, garage and driveway parking, gardens.

EPC: C

ROWLEY REGIS, Bell End£595 pcm
A well presented unfurnished modern end terrace house featuring 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, house bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking, lovely rear garden, convenient for access into Merry Hill, near to junction 2.

EPC: B

BARTLEY GREEN, Lapal Manor Court£595 pcm
Unfurnished 1st floor modern luxury apartment. Gas central heating, large open plan living room/fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Secure electronic gated property with allocated parking.

EPC: D

HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive£595 pcm
Located on the Homer Hill Estate. A well presented semi-detached home briefly featuring 3 bedrooms, with fitted wardrobes, spacious lounge, dining room, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, unfurnished.

EPC: C

MERRY HILL, Madison Avenue£595 pcm
Flexible accommodation with 3 bedrooms. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, master en-suite shower room, allocated parking space.

EPC: D

HALESOWEN, Graham Road£575 pcm
A 3 bed traditional semi detached house in a cul-de-sac location. An ideal position for Blackheath Town Centre and access for the M5. This unfurnished property features a lovely entrance hall, lounge with bay window, dining/kitchen, 2 double and 1 single bedrooms, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway, rear garden.

EPC: D

CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road£575 pcm
A very well presented mid terrace house on a popular road, with a local bus stop right outside. This large home features 2 good size double bedrooms and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size reception rooms, large fitted kitchen, bathroom with a shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden. On road parking or parking to the rear.

EPC: D

OLDSWINFORD, Hall Street£550 pcm
A quaint mid-terrace house, close to local shops and transport links, comprising of 1 double bedroom, 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen with white goods, downstairs bathroom with shower, spacious lounge, small rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, on road parking.

EPC: B

HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close£550 pcm
Beautifully presented and in the centre of Halesowen. A top floor unfurnished apartment which has modern decoration and set in a cul-de-sac features 2 good size bedrooms, modern kitchen with washing machine, spacious lounge, lovely bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed!

EPC: E

HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street North£540 pcm
Extremely well presented and surprisingly large and terrace with off road parking. Within walking distance to Halesowen, local bus routes and shops, comprises 2 bedrooms, nice lounge, attractive fitted diner/kitchen with white goods excluding washing machine, utility room, house bathroom with shower, a glorious courtyard garden and gated driveway.

EPC: E

HALESOWEN, Hope Street£525 pcm
A fully refurbished ground floor apartment, set in a quiet and popular cul-de-sac. This property features a large lounge, refitted kitchen with electric hob and oven, 2 double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with shower. The apartment has double glazing, newly fitted electric heating, garage and rear garden.

EPC: C

WORDSLEY, Cooknell Drive£525 pcm
Located in the centre of Wordsley and ideal for local buses to Stourbridge and Merry Hill. Featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, house bathroom, rear garden, driveway parking.

EPC: C

OLDSWINFORD, Heath Lane£515 pcm
Ideally located in the centre of Oldswinford for shops, transport links and Mary Stevens Park. This large and spacious end terrace house features 3 good size bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden and on road parking.

EPC: E

HALESOWEN, Banners Street£495 pcm
A mid terrace property which has been refurbished comprises of 2 double bedrooms, brand new fitted kitchen, 2 reception rooms, white bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, large tiered garden with decking area, on road parking.

EPC: E

NETHERTON, Round Street£475 pcm
Set in a quiet road, this is a lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street.

EPC: B

HALESOWEN, Southgate Way£450 pcm
A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished top floor apartment featuring 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, electric shower heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. Available immediately.

EPC: C

BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street£450 pcm
Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern and move house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars.

EPC: E

HALESOWEN, Netherend Lane£380 pcm
Well presented throughout. This unfurnished ground floor apartment is within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station and the Town Centre. This apartment comprises of a modern fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, en block garage.

Halesowen Office: Lettings & Property Management 0121 585 6688

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Mitsubishi workhorse must live up to proud name

By David Banner

MITSUBISHI'S L200 is a famous name in UK pick-up circles but can the latest version of this workhorse cut it alongside its talented rivals?

The pick-up was mopping up over 45 per cent of total sales in its 2003 heyday. Today's curvier version must face far stiffer competition from rival products, hence its Japanese marque's continual attempts to improve it. The latest models move the game on again, Mitsubishi offering a high specification and a generous helping of flash for the cash.

The L200 does the lifestyle pick-up thing better than any other model.

Adventurous

It offers more adventurous styling and high spec versions called Warrior and Barbarian with lots of equipment. The underlying vehicle is more of a mixed bag. Build quality and road manners could be better but the L200 is manoeuvrable, tough and looks like good value for money.

It would be no exaggeration to say that Mitsubishi had much to do with the pick-up's meteoric rise to prominence on these shores. Sales in a sector dominated by the L200 grew by 347 per cent in the six years leading up to the end of 2004. That pace of growth subsequently tailed off but not before it caught the attention on other manufacturers, encouraging them to take the pick-up market more seriously. Mit-



The Mitsubishi L200 the lifestyle vehicle that changed the UK pick-up market



The L200's galvanised load area

subishi's innovation was focusing on the pick-up truck as a leisure vehicle as well as a working one. The tax advantages accrued by people using one for family duties and as a company car proved attractive and Mitsubishi's chrome tinged L200 double cabs had the practicality and the attitude for this varied role.

Whichever L200 model you choose, and there are quite a few of them, there's a 2.5-litre common-rail injection diesel engine up front doing the hard work. In standard form, this engine turns in a healthy 134bhp and torque of

314Nm at 2,000rpm but a high power option is also available that tickles the output up to a macho 175bhp with 400Nm at 2,000rpm in manual form. This latter unit is capable of hitting 62mph from standstill in 12.1 seconds before rumbling on to a 111mph top speed.

The less powerful L200s take 15 seconds to reach 62mph and will eventually attain 103mph. The five-speed manual gearbox comes as standard but a five-speed automatic is also offered that features a Sport mode with more aggressive shift mapping.

Pick-up ride quality always leaves something

to be desired compared to 4x4 passenger cars but the L200 doesn't do too badly. It's not the best UK-market pick-up to drive but it is one of the most manoeuvrable.

Some pick-ups have entry-level front-wheel-drive versions but not the L200. Whether it's the Easy Select 4WD system on the entry-level models or the Super Select 4WD set-up on the range-topping versions, all have all-wheel-drive. Easy Select models should be run in 2WD mode in normal conditions with a locked 4WD mode selectable on low friction surfaces.

The Super Select is an advanced full time 4x4

set-up similar to that found in Mitsubishi's Shogun. There are three basic bodystyles to mull over. The single cab is reserved very much for businesses that need a proper old school working pick-up. Its traditional two seats and extensive 2,200mm load length mean it prioritises cargo over cabin.

The second option is the Club cab. This is for single cab customers who might occasionally need to transport more than one passenger. It offers a 1,805mm load length with additional capacity behind the cabin's front seats for secure storage or to seat a couple of small ones.

Most L200 customers opt for a double cab body, a variant offered in any trim level you like. This is a four-door five-seater model.

The L200 trim level range reflects its goal of catering for business and private buyers. You have 4Work models at the base of the range equipped only with the basics. That means CD stereo, steel wheels, and the basic Easy Select 4x4 system. 4Life is a little plusher with air-conditioning, electric windows and keyless entry. Beyond that, we reach the high series L200s, double cab versions dubbed Warrior and Barbarian. These are the bigger sellers and the models that cross over between business and pleasure in usage.

All of the high series L200 models feature the M-ASTC traction and stability control system as standard which is a really useful addition. The Warrior also features 17" alloy wheels, body-coloured wheel-arches, cruise control and climate control. The Barbarian is actually rather civilised, adding a colour screen satellite navigation system, a reversing camera, full leather trim and numerous styling accessories.

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Finance Example - Cash Price £4995, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500, Amount of Credit £4495, Total Amount Payable £5999.20, 60 Monthly Payments of £99.82 or 260 Weekly Payments of £23.04.

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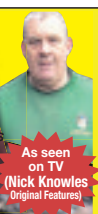
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Classified Ads

4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

GREY GELDING 12 HANDS, 10 years, friendly to handle, excellent in traffic, good to load catch, £900 ono. 07944 528423.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEN LONG haired ginger tom, affectionate, suit older couple, not used to busy roads, no flats, very playful, neutered, £10. 07967 644689.

FREE TO GOOD HOME, five black/white kittens, (1 nearly all black), 8 weeks old. 01922 712072.

JACK RUSSELL puppies, 8 weeks old, wormed, pets or working. 01384 78588, 07508 875377.

KITTENS, two male, black and white, 8 weeks old, £15 each. 07973 273272.

MARTHA
On October 10, an old Border Collie was found lying exhausted on the side of the road in a pitiful state, dirty, starving and covered in fleas and mites, she knows nothing of love, fuses and treats but that will come, however it will take time. We have a long term foster care for her for however long it takes but we need help to fund it, if you can sponsor this dog for a few pounds a month or can give a one off donation we would be grateful.

Roger Brown The Old Mill, Hampton Road, Bridgnorth, WV15 6HD. Dog Samaritans reg charity 1058312

MIDLANDS ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM

Woody and Chucky
Are neutered seven year old Labrador puppies whose owner had sadly died.

They are beautiful friendly boys who need a safe loving home together, preferably with owners who experience of this breed.

Secure fencing essential, all homes visited.

01902 730899/01902 670150.

PEDIGREE BLACK Labrador Pups, girls and boys, parents can be seen, £300. Call 07974 810544.

PEDIGREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER boy. Telephone 07952 926466.

PERSIAN X KITTENS pretty cameo boys, 14 weeks, fully vaccinated, cream, 5 months old, loving lap cats, £75. 07771 705625.

PUG PUPPY, bitch, 8 weeks old, KC Reg, 5 generation pedigree, microchipped, wormed and vet checked, all paper work in hand, looking for a good home, she is good with children, £885. o.n.o. 01384 823740 or 07835 510183.

SHIH TZU Puppies for sale, first inoculations included. 0121 446 6805 or 07592 380424.

URGENT LOVING HOMES NEEDED

Ben 2.5yr old Springer Spaniel Monty 1.5yr old Springer x Jack Russell

Both these dogs are great with other dogs, great with children, loving and affectionate.

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Bruno 4yr old cross breed, collie x shepherd, x?

Reggie Mature Labrador boy, needs a couple of pensioners to invest their time and love him. 01588 676106 or visit website www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

WHIPPET PUPPIES dogs £130, bitch £150. 01384 838870.

5

Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6

Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

AMBLECOTE Stourbridge, 2 bed flat, unfurnished, GCH, parking, deposit / refs required £400pcm. 01384 444922.

COSELEY 1 bed flat, new decor, refs/deposit, suit mature employed, £280pcm. 07860 217565.

DUDLEY/WOTON, 1 bed apartments, locked car park, private grounds. No DSS. 07870 894355.

ESSINGTON Modern 1-bed flat, rural location, lovely outlook, no DSS. 07454 015789.

PENSNETT / Dudley / Blackheath. 1/3 bed flat/house. Dep't rent neg. 0121 550 0064/07970 980955.

ROSEVILLE, COSELEY Newly large 2/3 double bed flat, secure parking, £475pcm. 07976 671074.

THREE-BEDROOMED HOUSE. Good condition. Dss OK. Cosleley. 01902 409718 or 07951 523658

TWO-BED HOUSE central Bliston CH, short DSS. £475pcm plus Deposit. Call 07939 312921.

W-TON BLAKENHALL 2-bed house, 2 receptions, unfurnished, £340pcm, no deposit. 07905 656 532 or 01708 509439

2 BED HOUSE with garden, Regent Street, Willenhall. Refurbished. New windows and carpets. Very good condition. Gas ch. £105 per week. DSS accepted. Tel 07983 965589

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LOOK

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VISITOR MANAGER
(FRONT OF HOUSE/RETAIL)

A unique opportunity has arisen at Dudley Zoological Gardens. We are looking to recruit a Visitor Manager to support the Visitor Services Manager to help deliver the best of visitor care and satisfaction to all our visitors.

This is a very exciting time to join us as the Zoo has embarked on a major refurbishment programme improving the look and feel of the site enhancing the visitor experience. The Visitor Manager's position will be pivotal to the delivery of the Visitor Experience.

The Visitor Manager will work with the Visitor Services Manager and will play a key role for the management and delivery of Admissions, Retail Operations (Stock Management and Sales & Merchandising), Visitor Transport, Outreach, Face Painting, Birthday Parties and Events.

The successful candidate will ideally have managerial experience in a customer facing environment, high volume retail experience, a working knowledge of EPOS systems, and be very resourceful and be an organised individual who is passionate about delivering the best of visitor care and satisfaction at all times.

This is a permanent position offering a salary of up to £25,000 p.a. Reviewed after 6 months.

Please send your hand written letter of application together with a full CV to: **Adrian Pace**
Visitor Services Manager
Dudley Zoological Gardens
Castle Hill, Dudley
West Midlands DY1 4QF

All applications must be received by Friday the 08th of November 2013.

First interviews will be held at the zoo on Wednesday the 13th of November 2013.

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8

Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 2.5SE

2002, 100,000 miles, Arctic green, automatic, SH, MoT till May 2014, tax till June 2014, excellent condition, grey/blue leather, AC, El Sunroof, stereo, CD x 6 changer, towbar, alloys and usual SE refinements.

£2,250 ono.

01384 877364.

BMW 316 SE, 03, petrol, 78k, black, MoT June 2014, tax Feb 2014, tinted windows, £2,399 ono.

07971 984156 or 01384 274618

★ **BMW 318SE**, 2002, Facelift, 118k, blue, full leather, full history, 18ins MV wheels, long MoT, tax Jan 2014, very good condition, first £2,399 ono. 07752 767722.

CHEVROLET LACETTI SXi, 2008, long MoT, factory fitted LPG, very cheap to run, only 36k, 5 speed motorbike / scooter. 07789 483751.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO, 2006 1.6 Diesel, 39,000 miles, dark grey/black, MoT July 2014, great car, £3,100 ono. 07767 838321.

CITROEN C2 SX 1.1 56 plate, navy blue, low miles, tax & MoT, immaculate condition in/out. £2,395 ono. 01384 440107 / 07908 208198.

FIAT PANDA 1.2 Dynamique, 54 reg, full MoT, 8 months tax, FSH, low mileage, insurance group 1, excellent. £1,795. 07532 497982.

FORD FUSION 1.4TDCI, 2005, 51,000miles, black, tax, MoT, fsh, a/c, elw, elm, CD, alloys, £2,400 ono. 01384 918538.

FORD KA, 1200cc, year 2012, 60 miles, sale due to ill health, £6,500 ono. 07908 867729.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 DIESEL 2008 (08 plate), grey (matching trim), full MoT (no advisories), 5 months tax, FSH, AC, CG, EW, EM, PAS, bodywork good, interior excellent.

Price reduced for quick sale. £2,800.

07967 879922, 01630 657048.

FORD MONDEO 2.2 STI BLACK, 05 PLATE
Long MoT and Tax.
86,000 genuine miles.
Full Service History.
All usual extras.
Genuine reason for sale.
£3,000 ono.
07904 198349 or 01902 828636.

LOOK

FORD FIESTA 1.25, 54 reg, hatch, 3 door, tax, MoT, 54k, parking sensor, pull down rear window, broken, £1,250. 01902 344177.

FORD FIESTA Frascati 1.4, N reg, 1 lady owner from new, 51K, MoT Aug 14, tax Jan 14, good engine, SH, SR, £500 ono. 07980 968629.

★ **FORD FIESTA** W reg, black manual petrol Ghia, 48k, 5dr. AC, MoT and tax March 2014. £950 ono. 07971 959338

FORD FOCUS 2.0 ZETEC Petrol, 2003, tax, MoT, silver, 50,000 miles, CD player, good, clean condition. £995 ono.

Telephone 01384 622373 or 07792 541674.

LOOK

FORD FOCUS CMAX 1.8 ZETEC

05 Reg, black, 68,000 miles, FSH, tax and MoT, excellent condition, £2,795.

RENAULT CLIO

1.2, 3-dr, 1998, good, 62,000 miles, service history, tax and MoT, 4 new tyres and battery, good condition, cheap to run, £595.

Please call 07944 619107.

FORD SPORT KA 2003, 1.6 black, 80k, alloys, MoT March 14, immaculate condition, £995.

07930 879878

HONDA CIVIC ESi, 1994, grey, MoT, lady driver last 13 years, suit enthusiast, previous MoTs, sunroof, £200 ono. 07761 753031.

HONDA HRV automatic, 2001, 3-door hatch, petrol, red, 79,000 miles, £1,400 ono. 07505 402548.

NISSAN MICRA S, X reg, electric blue, SR, nice clean little car, MoT and tax, £850. 07789 939224.

PEUGEOT 106 1.1 2001, tax and MoT, 109,000 miles, 51k, offers around £395 ono. 01902 403066.

PEUGEOT 206 GTI in mint condition inside and out, 88,000 miles, tax till March 2014, MoT till October 2014, £1,000 ono. 07516 660527.

PEUGEOT 306 CABRIOLET, R reg, midnight blue, full leather, alloys, CD, electronics, full MoT, very good condition, £395. 07980 978105.

PEUGEOT PARTNER Combi Escapade, MPV, 1.9 HDi, 55 reg, good condition, tax, MoT, high miles hence £1,100 ono. 07833 683370.

RELIANT THREE WHEELER SLX, 1994, 1000cc, 31K miles, offers around £395 ono. 07980 978105.

07503 252082.

BMW 2.5SE

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance.

For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

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These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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2003, 89,500 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, sunroof, alloys, stereo, CD, spots, leather interior, petrol, leather and Alcantara interior, new front suspension, brake discs and pads and just been serviced. Ideal first car!

£1,300 ono. 07460 307063.

ROVER 416S, R reg, 58k, white, central locking, sunroof, tax Oct 2013. £325. 01902 756440.

ROVER MGF 53 reg, 68,000 miles, 12 months MoT, grey, alarm, central locking, excellent condition, £1000 ono. 07939 483221.

TOYOTA COROLLA 1.4VVTi

2000, 3 door, silver, 2 new front tyres, 10 months MoT, no tax, good condition, 68,267 miles. £950 ono. Telephone 07545 130929.

VAUXHALL VECTRA, 51, petrol, 76k miles, burgundy, long MoT, tax, great buy! £675 ono. 07773 971115.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, gold, 98,000 miles, full MoT, £950 ono. Good first car. 01384 234781. 07808 089958.

VAUXHALL CORSA hatchback, long MoT and tax, history, 70k, lovely condition, £675. 07811 207385.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8, 5dr, Hatchback, 95 reg (2005), full MoT, SH, recent cambelt fitted, drives well, £1,095. 07711 136700.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 16v Club 1.6, 2001, 98,000 miles, grey, 12 months MoT, £995 ono. 07460 715486.

VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4GL 1998, tax and MoT, clean some history. £395. 07946 140963.

VW GOLF V.6 4 MOTION 2001, 6 months tax, 12 months MoT, s/h, many extras including hands free, Sat Nav, 6 multi disc, full leather, heated seats, private plate (MG SCJ), electric s/r. **£1,500 ono.** 07753 746378/01922 412569.

VW GOLF W reg, 1.6SE, tax/MoT, spares or repair. £400. 01902 493453 or 07900 501274.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO VAN 1.6 HDI, 07 plate, immaculate condition, 9 months MoT, 2 owners from new, new cam belt change, 4 new tyres, first to see will buy. **£2,500 ovno. 07872 949729.**

FORD ESCORT van, 1800 diesel, 2002, 12 months MoT, taxed till end of Oct, 4 recent part worn tyres. £650 ovno. 01902 676265.

LANDROVER SERIES 2A 1966, LWB Safari, 2 1/2 Petrol. Radial tyres. 12 seats. Overdrive. Freewheel hubs, capston winch, unleaded head. Tax exempt. **£5,000. o.n.o.** Telephone 01785 284303

MERCEDES SPRINTER van, 311CDi, 06 reg, 142,000 miles, 12 months MoT, £2900 engine, £4,500 ono. 01384 457219.

**RENAULT TRAFFIC 1.9 SZ 27 DCI 100**

Diesel, SLD 2006, service history, 80,000 miles only, new tax, long MoT, stereo, same as Vivaro, one owner, bulkhead, lite use, alarm, immaculate clean van.

£4,500 NO VAT.**07788 767167.****classic cars**

MG MGF, 1999, 144,000 miles, purple, 11 months MoT, tax and Nov, soft top, drives perfect. £795 ono. 07773 996403.

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motorbikes**LOOK**

HONDA NTV650V DEAUVILLE

2005, 12,300 miles, 48lt top box bike, viz lights, 2 new tyres, MoT November, SORN at present, chain, pad, lock, disc, lock and cover, very good condition and very reliable plus Haynes manual, sounder fitted to indicators, stored inside.

£2,250 ono.**0121 5308918.**

HONDA VARADERO 125 cc, 2006, 11 months MoT, 13,000 miles only, excellent condition, £2,000 ono. 07983 01459 or 01384 423518.

KAWASAKI ZX6R 1999, 600cc, one owner, 6,000 miles only, tax and MoT, immaculate, £2,650. Telephone 07787 965332.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

SHEILA DORIS BARRETT (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 45 Hunlunds Road Hasbury Halesowen West Midlands B63 4LZ, who died on 15/07/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 03/01/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice. **THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED** Aztec 650 Aztec West Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD (Ref: DMEA/3226077P/Barrett) 7393008

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE, BLONDE LADY, 43 5ft 4in, slim figure, N/S, professional, notices, car owner, likes travel, cinema, walking, dining out, weekends away. Seeks attractive male, 5ft 10in and over, professional, N/S, car owner, for Friendship / Relationship. Photo please, will return. **Box Number P18866, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

ATTRACTIVE GUY 59 Just returned from Thailand wishes to meet attractive lady 30-50 for loving relationship. Photo appreciated (Returned). **Box Number P18873, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from women wanting discreet Adult Fun! Call 08444 484021 for full details. Discretion assured!

GENTLEMAN, LATE 50'S Seeking a lady between 40-55 for a long term relationship. I'm a very kind and trustworthy person, I live on my own and am self employed, I'm very outgoing, enjoy walking, going out for meals and going on holiday.

It would be nice to have someone to share these things with.

Genuine replies only please. If possible a recent photo would be appreciated.

Write Box No. P18872 (WS), Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

MALE 44 Average looks, seeking Female between 35 and 46 with GSOH, caring and honest, N/S, single Mums welcome for nights in and out, friendship and possible L/T relationship. I am a caring and honest person, outgoing, N/S.

Box Number P18858, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Looking for mature female as a travelling companion with sense of humour and a wide variety of interests.

Box Number P18851, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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West Indian origin, early 50's, good looking, own house and car, enjoys outdoor activities, cosy nights in and out, would like to meet lady, under 50, for long term relationship. **Box Number C18859, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

sports clubs

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general

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Midlands fighters in good form at contest

NINE fighters from the Midlands were crowned West Midlands champions in the ABA Novice competition and progressed to the national stages.

Two out of three wasn't bad for Windmill ABC from Smethwick with Reece Taylor walking over his 54kg bout in Class A.

Simmad Mahmood was defeated unanimously on points at 57kg by Cleary's Michael Jephcott.

It came ahead of the contests in Class B, for boxers who have been involved in 11 to 20 bouts, where Windmill's Mohammed Abdullah beat Farhan Aslam, from Eastside ABC, Birmingham.

Priory Park ABC in Dudley also got two out of three through with Nicholas Spruce losing Eastside's Husam Mehmood.

At 81kg, Sean Davies was beaten by Second City's Shakan Pitters.

Andrew Slater, from Lions ABC in Dudley, made Second City's Elliott Hill take a standing count in the third.

Defence is unlocked by Robins' six

Dudley Town 6 Willenhall Town 1
DRENIZ BALA netted his second hat-trick of the season as the Lockmen were hit for six and Dudley jumped to third place in the West Midlands Premier League.

Willenhall held out for 20 minutes before Bala opened the scoring with a long-range chip over Steve Booth.

Close to half time Gadd found the net.

The Robins then added two more in first-half stoppage time. Adam Callinswood found Rion Francis-Mills on the edge of the six-yard box and he played the ball out to Bala who smashed home.

Number four followed immediately as a shot cannoned off Booth and fell at the feet of Callinswood, who had the simple task of slotting home.

Bala completed his hat-trick cutting in from the left before slotting home from a seemingly impossible angle.

Jake Morgan pulled one back for the Lockmen on 70 minutes.

Dudley added a sixth 10 minutes from time through Francis-Mills.

Hampton well Arden against Old Hales

OHHC 1sts 1 Hampton in Arden 4
OLD Halesonians Hockey Club Mens 1st XI suffered defeat at home to fellow league new boys Hampton in Arden.

Hampton who were promoted with Hales last season, were on the back foot for much of the opening minutes, with Hales making their mark on the game.

However, Hales' lack of composure in front of goal was to be their downfall on a damp afternoon at Ormiston Forge.

Tom Durnford missed a chance early on when he found himself at

the end of a deflected shot. Despite his best efforts, Durnford could only watch as his first time flick could only find the side netting.

Hampton started to force Hales back, and capitalised on their chances.

Two quick goals before half time had Hales chasing the game but Hampton grabbed another just after the half time break, predictably from a penalty corner.

Despite being three goals down, Hales continued to rally, and managed to grab a goal back when Harry Hughes found Graham Knight inside the circle. Knight

Hockey

didn't fail to disappoint as he made it 3-1. The hosts continued to pile on pressure as the visitors resorted to the long ball game.

But as Hales pushed for a comeback they were caught on the break late on, and Hampton were able to put the game out of reach.

England Hockey Men's Trophy Round One

Melton 6 OHHC 1sts 5

On Sunday, Hales travelled to North Leicestershire as they visited Melton Mowbray.

Despite missing several key players, the visitors started strongly when Graham Knight doubled his tally for the weekend as he opened the scoring.

Hales doubled their lead from the penalty spot, when Tom Durnford saw his effort blocked on the line by a Melton defender. Paul Woodall did the honours.

Woodall grabbed Hales' third goal before Melton scored a goal of their own to make it 3-1.

Melton started strongest in the second half and made it 3-2, before then equalising within minutes.

Hales went in front again, when

Charles Palmer scored and Man of the Match, Woodall secured his hat-trick but Melton reduced the deficit on the counter attack.

With 60 seconds left, the hosts made it 5-5. And, with just seconds to go and the game heading to penalty flicks, a Chris Wattley pass went astray, allowing Melton to snatch the winner.

Other Results:

OHHC Ladies 1sts 2-3 Harborne North Staffs 7 OHHC 2nds 2

OHHC Ladies 2nds 0 Stourport 8 Shrewsbury 3 OHHC 3rds 4

Kingswinford 0 OHHC Badgers 13

Fight duo heading for battles in the city

FIGHT duo Luke Paddock and Lance Brooks have been helping one another get ready for their next ring assignments – by bashing 10 bells out of each other.

The two, who box out of Paul Gough's Priory Park gym, are on promoter Marcus Anderson-Hitchens' dinner show at the Holiday Inn in Birmingham.

Bloxwich's Paddock, who is unbeaten in four light welterweight contests so far, will face a test in tough Yorkshire-based Syrian Youssef Al Hamidi on Friday night.

Traveller Brooks, who will be competing at welter, goes in with rarely-stopped Bulgarian Danny Donchev on the same bill in his third professional bout.

Paddock and Brooks have consistently shared a ring sparring ahead of fight night, with trainer Paul Gough telling both their opponent's fighting styles mirror the other.

Gough said: "I am really impressed with the way Luke has developed."

Tickets, which include a three-course meal, are still available for Friday night's show. For more information, call 0121 552 8124.

You can also buy online at www.itsaboutboxing.com.

Heathens aiming for clean sweep

DUDLEY aim to complete a magnificent clean sweep of National honours when they host the Knockout Cup Final on the biggest night of the modern Heathens era next Tuesday.

Boss Will Pottinger is desperate to see the league champions continue the old Cradley tradition of winning the cup after their amazing record of eight wins between 1979-89.

They will face either Isle of Wight or Mildenhall on what is sure to be an emotional night.

Normal admission prices apply – £11 adults, £8 concessions and £2 children and a special 40-page souvenir programme will be produced for £3.

Heathens have also revealed a high demand for tickets to their end of season celebration night on Friday, November 15.

For tickets contact the club website www.dudley-heathens.co.

Ladies refuse to take on role of underdogs

County Cup Halesowen 6 Bilbrook 1
BILBROOK are two divisions above the Yeltz and so far undefeated in their respective league, so on paper this would be Halesowen's toughest game so far this season.

Halesowen should have been the underdogs, but they were having none of it, from the off the home side pressed the visitors back into their own half.

On several occasions Halesowen broke the defence but the woodwork and good goalkeeping keeping the scoreline blank.

The deadline was broken when Haley Chatwin received the ball from Sarah Hamill and with a little trickery slotted the ball passed the lonely keeper.

Fantastic

Gemma Moss scored a fantastic header off a perfect Katie Moore corner on 28 minutes.

Yeltz were on fire and within a minute made it three-nil as Chatwin doubled her tally.

Speedy striker Rachel Letford got her first goal of the game when Sian Whithall put through a perfectly-weighted ball leaving Letford to pass it across the oncoming keeper.

In the second half Halesowen knew Bilbrook would come at them, and after weathering a storm for the first 10 minutes Halesowen made it five

Football

with fantastic work from Letford. Bilbrook scored when a simple shot should have been easily collected by Hannah Tromans but an awkward bounce popped it over her foot.

The Halesowen defence stood firm throughout any Bilbrook onslaught.

The final goal came from good team work but Dominique McKee passed two players then put through Letford for her hat-trick.

The final whistle went and Halesowen had run out 6-1 winners – without even mentioning hitting the woodwork three times.

Halesowen manager Scott McKee said: "How we set ourselves up and competed, I thought we were worthy winners and I'm proud of the squad. They worked hard for themselves and each other."

"Halesowen fans must come and watch the ladies play and have a drink in the new bar."



Gemma Moss scores one of the six for the Yeltz as they beat Bilbrook two divisions above them

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SPORT

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Well Arden

Old Hales suffer home defeat to new boys
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Sixing it up

Yeltz ladies refuse to play underdogs
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Old Hales dig in to grab the victory

Old Hales 25 South Leicester 11
THE visitors as expected took the ball on in the pack to score an early try.

Hales fought back with good ground from the boot of Pete Clifford. A penalty and yellow card for South followed which was converted. The second half saw South in the ascendancy with driving mauls and pressure resulting in two penalties against Hales.

Shortly after Mark Evans picked up from the base, fed Clifford who sprinted to the line for a great try.

Hales then took the game to South with pressure from Robinson, Oxford and Hooper.

A scrum on the visitors 22 saw Carl Robinson score in the corner. Clifford made it 20-11.

Evans took the line out ball and a driving maul saw him score the final try.

Hales are away to Sutton Coldfield on Saturday, kick off 3pm.

Old Yardians 1sts 38 Old Halesonians 2nds 24
Old Hales had the best of the early possession but when they over eagerly tried to spread the ball wide to the right, the Old Yards wing swooped on to an interception to score a simple try that was converted. Tom Harris and Jack Manners were among the scorers.

RFC 3rds 22 Wednesday 2nds 0

Single goal sinks Gornal

Gornal Athletic 0 Walsall Wood 1

A COREY CURRITHERS goal in the dying seconds gave Wood their third consecutive League victory away from home.

Both sides had played some attractive approach football but neither side could make the final breakthrough - until Currithers a minute before full time.

In the first minute from a Wood free kick Joey Butlin climbed highest to power a header over the far angle.

Athletic started to get a foothold in the game, Tony Okome fed Alando Lewis wide left, he made the byeline and his low near post cross was well held by Wood keeper Raajan Gill.

There was a quiet start to the second half until on 55 minutes Sangha fired an effort just wide.

On 89 minutes Currithers forced the ball home under the brave keeper.

Neot the score Hales wanted as Saints march

Halesowen Town 1 St. Neots Town 3
YELTZ exited a second national cup competition in a week as much-changed St Neots displayed their Southern Premier Division status.

The Yeltz started brightly, but there was a sense that it was not going to be their day when a number of early chances went begging.

A clever Tom Tonks flick put Ben Haseley clear in the fourth minute but goalkeeper Niall Conroy made an excellent fingertip save as the striker tried to go around him.

Fellow striker Iyseden Christie then did well to hold off the visiting defence and set

Football

up Haseley to fire high from close range.

The Saints gradually settled to display their higher league sharpness and defender David Deeney punished the Yeltz by heading home from Lewis Hiliard's 25th minute corner.

On-loan Luton Town striker Jake Woolley then drove home into the bottom corner to double the lead for the visitors six minutes before the interval.

Halesowen made a good response with a 41st minute effort from Tonks cleared off

the line and substitute Jean-Michel Gueyes set up Haseley to strike the outside of the post just seconds into a second half of torrential rain.

A 25 yard shot from substitute Aaron Griffiths was then tipped over the bar by goalkeeper Conroy after 67 minutes before Haseley went close twice again.

But Edward Adjei finally ended Halesowen's hopes by clinically claiming a third St Neots goal in the 79th minute although Joe Hull headed home Elliott Turner's 87th minute corner to give Halesowen some deserved consolation.

Halesowen Town: Paul Evans (c); Kristian

Green, Adam Meacham (Aaron Griffiths 65), Neil MacKenzie (Jean-Michel Gueyes 46), Joe Hull, Curtis Tilt, Matt Martin, Tom Tonks, Iyseden Christie (Nigel Penney 40), Ben Haseley, Elliott Turner. **Unused Subs:** Brendan Kelly, Sam Pearson (GK).

St Neots Town: Niall Conroy; David Deeney, Jhai Dhillon, Alasan Ann, Gavin Hoyte (c), Leon Hibbert (Ben Ford 75), Lewis Hiliard, Adrian Sear, Jake Woolley, Edward Adjei, Jay David (Liam Hurst 80). **Unused Subs:** Bobby Joe Taylor, Joe N'Guessan, Dan Crowie

Referee: Ollie Yates

DK Vets hit score famine

KCRFC 2nd XV 22 DK Vets 0

THE seconds took centre stage in front of a decent Marpool Lane crowd who were indebted to the visitors for stepping in at the last minute after a late cry off by scheduled opponents Aston Old Edwardians.

KC's got off to a flying start with a try inside the first minute.

Then Will Varley out-flanked the Vets' defence and he touched down in the left hand corner.

Alex Thompson put in a long clearance kick which was chased by right wing Ross Ashcroft who was first to the ball and he put in support runner Rich Sollom to double the lead.

Six minutes later KC won a lineout on the visitors' five metre line and after a series of drives by the forwards they worked the narrow side and left wing Ian Burgess powered over to extend the advantage to 15-0.

KC did not have to wait long for their fourth try.

A crisp move was finished off by Thompson whose try was converted by Machin to give the hosts a comfortable 22-0 halftime lead.

DK began the second half determined but never got on the scoreboard.

Championship to run at Dunstall

A NEW all-weather racing championship series boosted by a £2m prize-money injection will start at Wolverhampton on Saturday.

The series, devised by the owners of the track, Arena Racing Company, will have its finale at Lingfield next year when racing is staged for the first time on Good Friday. Dunstall Park will host two new races worth £19,000.

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YELTZ DEFENCE IS SPRUNG BY LEEK

Leek Town 4 Halesowen Town 1
HALESOWEN Town lost their unbeaten away league record after they came off second best against the runaway league leaders in North Staffordshire.

Leek dominated the first half, going close with the first real chance of the game on 25 minutes.

John Johnston burst down the right wing past Aaron Griffiths but his shot flew over the bar.

Prior to this here was a shout for a penalty from the Halesowen players, as the ball hit Danny Smith's arm but the appeals were waved aside.

Johnston opened the scoring on 27 minutes when his shot flew into Paul Evans' right hand corner and it was two on 40 minutes with a pinpoint free-kick courtesy of Matt Bell after Jordan Johnson had been brought down by Joe Hull.

Pressure

Leek were starting to show their form, as they put a huge amount of pressure on the Yeltz defence but it held firm.

However, this changed as Leek started to use the right wing a lot more, giving the defence some headaches.

Halesowen's first attempt at goal came 50 minutes into the game, as Ben Haseley shot at goal, but straight into goalkeeper Chapman's hands.

It looked like Leek were threatening to run away with the game on 55 minutes when Mitch Husbands nicked the ball off a hesitant

Football

Paul Evans and shot into an empty net. Leek were creating a more space in the Yeltz defence and John Johnston hit a low curling cross to Husbands who slid in to aim a shot, but his attempt was saved by Evans.

Johnston had been a nightmare for the Halesowen defence all night and as he was able to find space almost at will and put Evans to the test.

Halesowen fought back as Nigel Penney outpaced both defenders and crossed to Haseley, but Paul Donnelly was there to stop it reaching its target.

The Yeltz night then went from bad to worse on 75 minutes when Penney was adjudged to have brought Bell down and was sent off, though the decision looked harsh.

In the dying minutes of the game it became it four when Andy Kinsey hit a powerful free-kick at goal, Evans wasn't able to push it completely away and the ball just managed to tuck itself into the top right hand corner.

With seconds left, Neil McKenzie got a goal back with a 25-yard-strike but it proved just a consolation for the visitors.

Daniel returns to club with a haul of medals

A YOUNG martial artist proved his skills during a competition, from which he returned with four gold medals and a trophy honouring the top pupil.

Daniel Eccles first took up karate more than three years ago and has already achieved his 1st Dan black belt.

The 12-year-old, who attends Ellowes Hall Sports College in Lower Gornal, is a member of the Birmingham and Halesowen Shotokan Karate Club.

And he travelled down to the Akeley Wood Senior School, Buckingham, to compete in the Autumn Championships.

The youngster, of Gornal Wood, beat off tough competition to take gold in an individual kata; a paired kata and two team competitions.

He was also awarded the trophy for most outstanding pupil.

Proud mum Christine said: "He first started karate around three and a half years ago.

"It was just something he wanted to try and really he has gone from success to success.

"He has great teachers at the club."



Daniel Eccles from Gornal, who is a member of the the Birmingham and Halesowen Shotokan Karate Club, with the medals he won in a championship competition

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